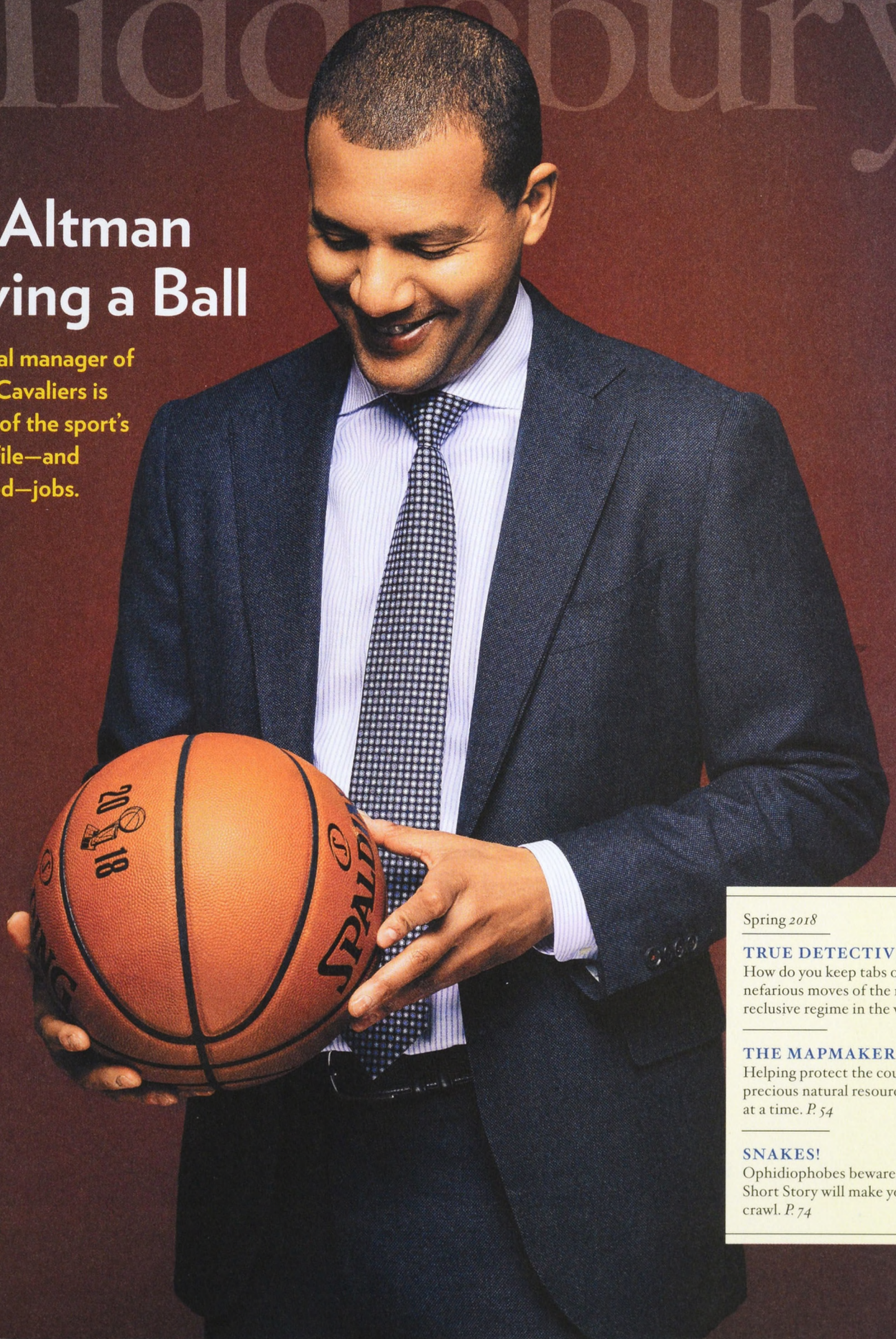
Middlebury MAGAZINE

# Koby Altman Is Having a Ball

**How the general manager of the Cleveland Cavaliers is thriving in one of the sport's most high-profile—and pressure-packed—jobs.**




Spring *2018*

**TRUE DETECTIVES**
How do you keep tabs on the nefarious moves of the most reclusive regime in the world? *P. 44*

**THE MAPMAKER**
Helping protect the country's most precious natural resources, one map at a time. *P. 54*

**SNAKES!**
Ophidiophobes beware: this issue's Short Story will make your skin crawl. *P. 74*

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having
a party!
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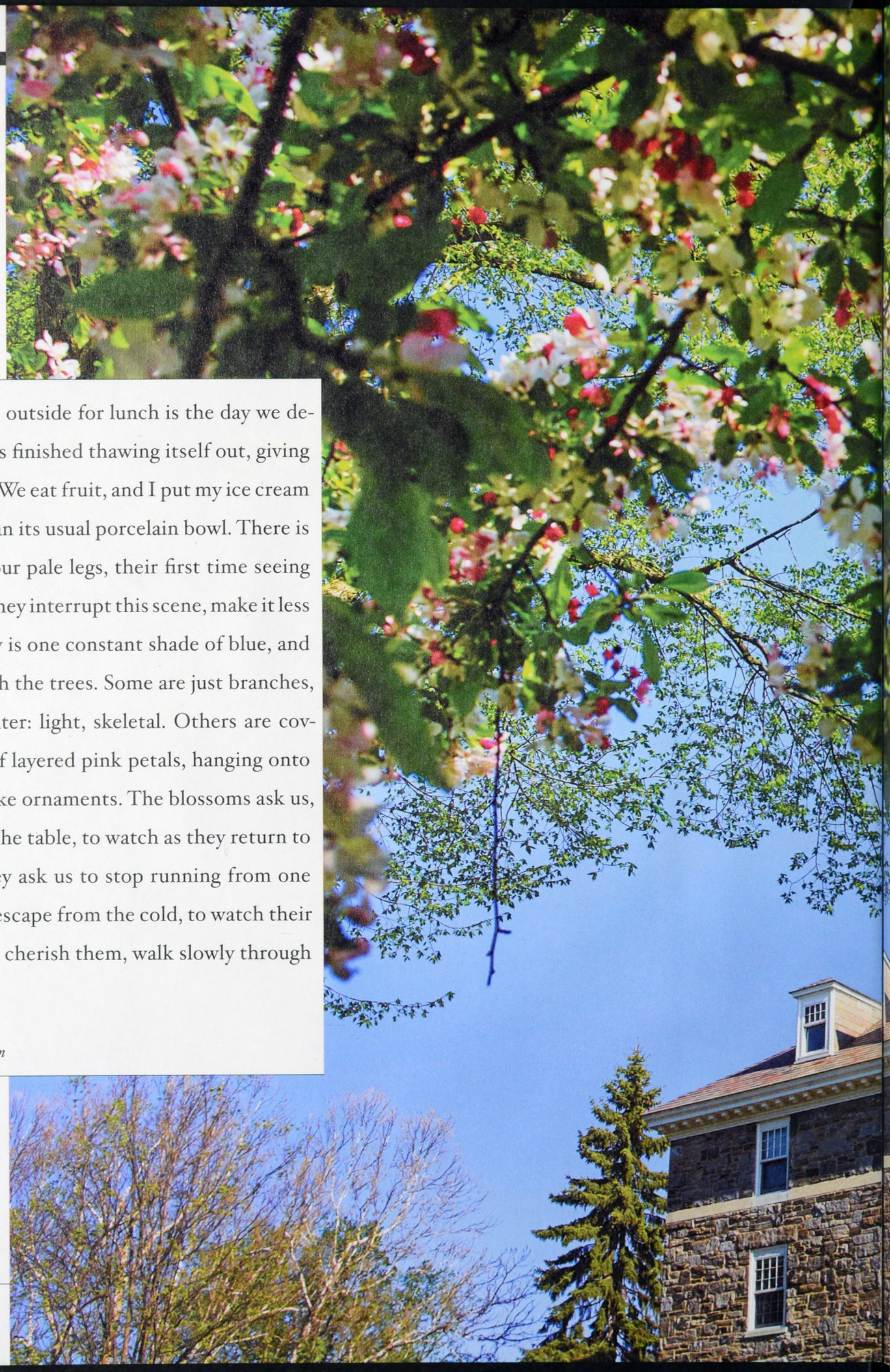
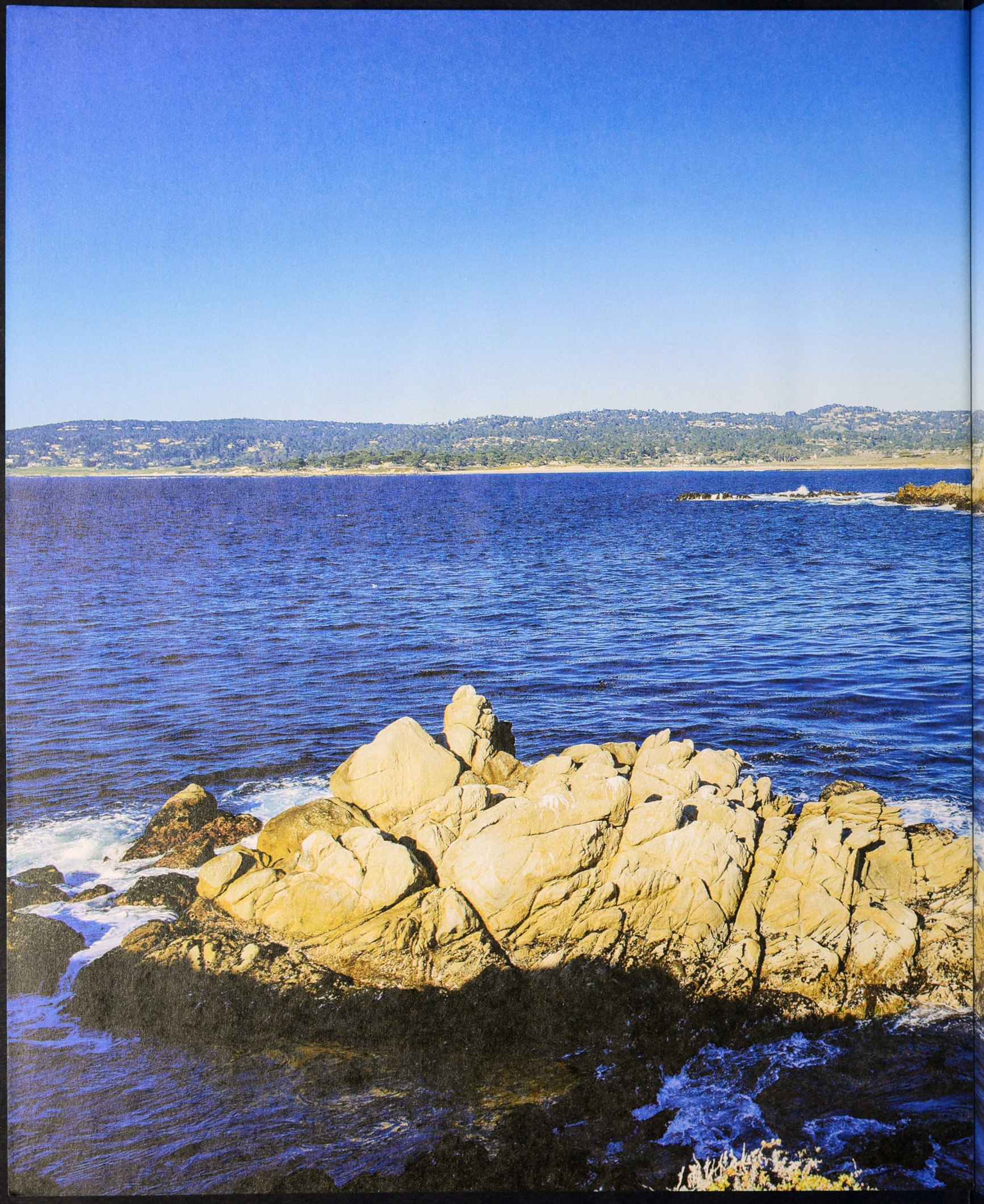
Spring emerges outside Gifford Hall, and a campus collectively exhales.

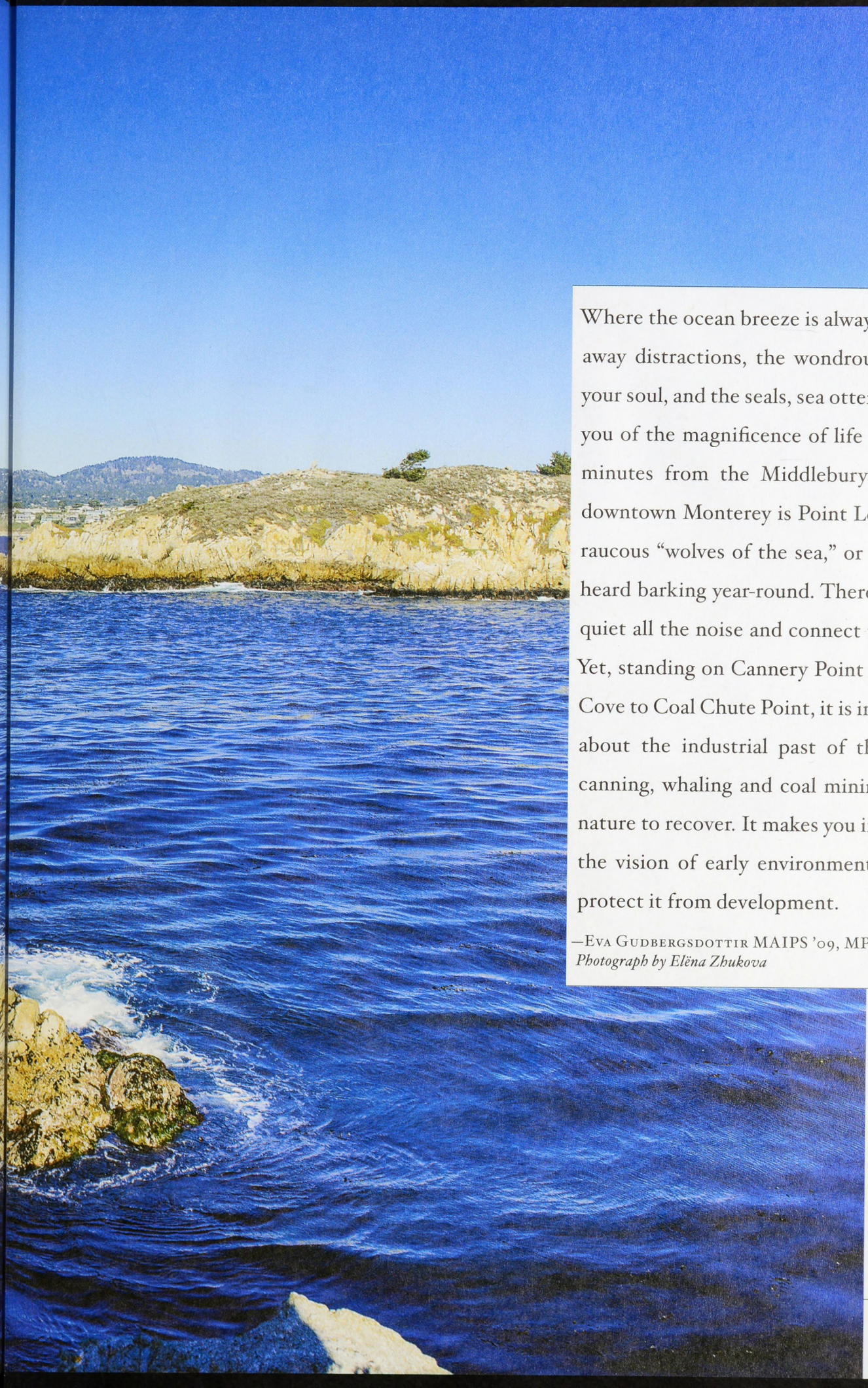


The first day we sit outside for lunch is the day we decide that winter has finished thawing itself out, giving way to longer days. We eat fruit, and I put my ice cream in a cone rather than its usual porcelain bowl. There is a lack of grace to our pale legs, their first time seeing light for months. They interrupt this scene, make it less glorious. ¶ The sky is one constant shade of blue, and beneath it we watch the trees. Some are just branches, still bare from winter: light, skeletal. Others are covered in blossoms of layered pink petals, hanging onto some lucky trees like ornaments. The blossoms ask us, from our perch at the table, to watch as they return to the landscape. They ask us to stop running from one roof to another in escape from the cold, to watch their subtle movements, cherish them, walk slowly through their air.

By Zoe Harris '20
*Photograph by Brett Simison*



There are few places as serene as Whalers Cove in Point Lobos State Reserve—a favorite locale for Middlebury Institute students, faculty, and alumni.



Where the ocean breeze is always cool enough to blow away distractions, the wondrous blue water touches your soul, and the seals, sea otters and pelicans remind you of the magnificence of life on this planet. Just 15 minutes from the Middlebury Institute campus in downtown Monterey is Point Lobos, named after the raucous "wolves of the sea," or sea lions, that can be heard barking year-round. There is no better place to quiet all the noise and connect to your own thoughts. Yet, standing on Cannery Point looking past Whalers Cove to Coal Chute Point, it is impossible not to think about the industrial past of this place—of abalone canning, whaling and coal mining—and the power of nature to recover. It makes you immensely grateful for the vision of early environmentalists who fought to protect it from development.

—Eva Gudbergsdottir MAIPS '09, MPA '10
*Photograph by Elëna Zhukova*

Growing up in Pakistan, I made most of my own clothes; Western clothing was not available where I lived, and I wanted to replicate characters I saw on American television. I cannot remember a time when dressing up did not make me feel absolutely empowered. ¶ I didn't know that costume design existed until I came to Middlebury, but since I was a first-year I have been designing shows every semester. The most recent production, *Middletown*, was a special experience for me because I was able to combine my love for clothing with my love for the community found in this town. My research process involved interviewing and photographing local townspeople, including an Abenaki Native American chief named Don Stevens; I ended up collaborating with Chief Stevens and a Venezuelan jewelry designer, designing and crafting native jewelry for *Middletown*. ¶ Involving the community with the costume design for this show was a beautiful artistic experience, and I hope to have more projects like this one in the future.

By Iram Asghar '18
*Photograph by Brett Simison*

For her senior thesis, theatre major Iram Asghar '18 served as the costume designer for the Will Eno play *Middletown*, which was staged at Middlebury last fall.

# See more of what we're talking about

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On California's magnificent Central Coast, a group of North Korea experts track Pyongyang's every nuclear move. But—if we're listening—the story they're telling us is also about ourselves.
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PHOTOGRAPH BY TODD BALFOUR (ABOVE LEFT). COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY LUKE COPPING. ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH BY ELĒNA ZHUKOVA.

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## August 30–September 2

**Victoria's Secret**
Antonia Losano, Professor of English and American Literatures

**Immigration, Race, and Law in the United States: Exploring the Historical Roots of Contemporary Immigration Debates**
Rachael Joo, Assistant Professor of American Studies

**Climate Change: The Science That Citizens Need**
Richard Wolfson, Benjamin F. Wissler Professor of Physics

**The Origin of Others: A Discussion on Race, Color, and Belonging**
Miguel Fernández, Professor of Spanish

*A fifth course will be announced soon!*

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FALL FAMILY WEEKEND

## October 5–7

HOMECOMING

## October 19–21

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# Gone to the Dogs

THE OTHER DAY I was walking on campus with my dog, a three-year-old Goldendoodle named Tom. We were approaching the Davis Library when we encountered a group of students, and as we passed them on the sidewalk, I heard one of the students say, "Oh, hi, Tom."

He glanced up without breaking stride, as if to acknowledge the greeting, briefly looking back at the group as they proceeded down the walkway. Perhaps he was allowing for the person to say something else, or maybe he was thinking the same thing I was: *How does that person know my [dog's] name?* I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. Ever since Middlebury adjusted its pet policy to allow for faculty and staff to bring dogs to work (as long as the employee has an office in a building that is designated as "dog-friendly"), Tom has accompanied me to the office on most days. And this means that Tom meets a lot of people on campus—when we're on our walks, when he's waiting outside Wilson Café with a colleague (mine, not his) while I grab a coffee, or when people visit my office. Students, especially, seem drawn to him, particularly around exam time when their stress levels are high; it's as if his soulful eyes and sheep's-fur coat absorb and then dissipate any anxiety that they may have.

Tom is not alone in putting smiles on the faces of students, faculty, and staff; in just my office building, there are also Katie, the black Lab, and Thor, the, well, I'm not sure what breed(s) of dog Thor is, which is part of his charm. Over in the Mahaney Center for the Arts, there's Frodo, a Welsh corgi. Frodo was the first dog to be registered as part of the new policy—Frodo's owner, theatre prof Alex Draper '88, proudly displays the designation in his doorway—and the little lad knows his way around the stage. (He steals the spotlight from Draper on p. 25.)

And then there are Padma and Suka, Laurie Patton's beautiful Great Pyrenees and Pyrenees mix. It has become a tradition at 3 South Street for the duo to make an appearance at the end of any dinner that the president regularly hosts for students, community members, and visiting guests. As I understand it, the appearance is a friendly signal that the evening is coming to a close, but on the occasions that I've witnessed their arrival, it's had the opposite effect. As soon as they see the dogs, people don't want to leave. M

ILLUSTRATION BY JESSIE HARTLAND

Middlebury
MAGAZINE

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PLEASE Recycle

# American Wood Sculptor John Cross:
# *A Contemporary Figurative Folk Artist*

**The whimsical carvings are the subject of a special retrospective exhibit at Middlebury's Henry Sheldon Museum until July 8.**

In celebration of **John's 60th reunion at Middlebury**, the Sheldon will be hosting a reception for him and his classmates and friends on Friday, June 8 from 4-6 p.m. *Please make plans to attend!*

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM**
*of Vermont History*

# Our Moral Directive

By Laurie L. Patton

My father is a retired cardiovascular thoracic surgeon. My childhood memories are punctuated with instances of him being called away from home for emergency surgeries. On those days, and many others over his long career, he never questioned whether the patients whose lives he was trying to save were able to pay for his services. He had taken the oath to heal to the best of his ability all those who presented themselves—and he spent his career doing so.

My father is long retired, and I chose to pursue academia, not medicine. But I believe that the duties of those in healing and medicine are much the same: to serve those who present themselves—regardless of their ability to pay.

In higher education, we don't—yet—have our own official version of the Hippocratic oath. But at Middlebury, we do have a mission that serves as our moral directive. In part, our mission declares that "through a commitment to immersive learning, we prepare students to lead engaged, consequential, and creative lives, contribute to their communities, and address the world's most challenging problems."

These students—our students—are increasingly coming to us requiring financial aid to make the full Middlebury experience accessible. In fact, this year 42 percent of our students received some kind of financial assistance to attend. This percentage is similar to, although on the low end, of what our peer colleges provide.

As a need-blind institution, Middlebury admits the most qualified students among our applicants. We also meet every enrolled student's full demonstrated financial need—the cost of attending less the family's estimated financial contribution. We are committed to each of these policies and to maintaining and strengthening our financial sustainability.

But rising inequality means that Middlebury needs to increase its ability to provide financially for our students.

As we educate young people across our schools to address the world's most challenging problems, we must acknowledge that inequality is one of those problems. In the United States, income disparity is increasing. If current trends continue, soon top students will come mostly from places and families for whom a Middlebury education is beyond reach. But we must still continue to be able to reach them—and keep them. We must increase our efforts to make Middlebury a place of welcome, supporting all students so that they know that they belong.

That goes beyond support for the cost of attendance, and into support for the cost of experience. Being a Middlebury student means receiving an extraordinary, rewarding, and affirming education in and out of the classroom, with equal opportunities to participate in clubs and sports, internships and experience abroad, spiritual and religious life, and cultural and artistic expression. In doing so, we are changing and broadening the Middlebury experience to be more appealing to, and reflective and inclusive of, today's and tomorrow's student body.

Being a need-blind institution can help increase educational access for top students. But we are competing with our peer institutions to enroll these same students, and we are falling behind in our ability to do so. Currently, we rank 11th out of 16 in relation to our peers in the percentage of undergraduate students to whom we give financial aid.

It's true that Middlebury is a college in demand. We received a record number of applications again this year. We could certainly fill each new incoming class with bright and motivated students whose families can afford to pay, and allow our peer colleges to enroll exceptional students with more limited financial means.

That is not an option, of course. We are not only an institute of higher education, but also a public charity—a not-for-profit organization—because a Middlebury education is a public good. A public good should be accessible to all, regardless of financial means. The need to increase our ability to provide financial aid is not exclusive to Middlebury, of course. However, how we respond to this need can be. We can draw on our history: from our beginnings, Middlebury has been about access—and the need to fund it. Middlebury was founded by teachers and preachers who were focused on making education available to those who were not afforded the federal funds given to UVM to found that university in the late 18th century.

Then, as now, Middlebury relied upon those who believed in the importance of education access to fund and maintain our mission. We are fortunate to have a high level of alumni and parent engagement, generous support from many sources, and to be guided by trustees and overseers whose foundational priorities are the twin goals of financial sustainability and financial aid.

Expect to hear more from me about what I believe is Middlebury's duty to our current and future students and their families. As always, I welcome your thoughts. Please share them with me at president@middlebury.edu.

ILLUSTRATION BY MONTSE BERNAL

# Talk

## FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

**Annelise Capossela** ("Signs of Spring") is an illustrator who plies her trade in New York City. A native of Vermont, she instantly understood the aesthetic required for our whimsical map of the arrival of spring on the Middlebury campus. Annelise's work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *VICE*, *Longreads*, and in art galleries in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Photographer **Luke Copping** ("Koby Altman's Home Court") creates images for magazines, advertising agencies, and corporate clients in the U.S. and Canada, with credits in *Sports Illustrated*, *EatingWell*, and the *Guardian* to his name. He spent the better part of a day with Koby Altman '04, photographing the Cleveland Cavaliers general manager in his office, in the team's practice facility, and in Quicken Loans Arena before a Cavs game. We're incredibly grateful for Koby's gift of time and Luke's talent behind the lens, all of which enhanced this issue's cover story.

**Zach Dorfman** ("True Detectives") is a freelance writer who specializes in domestic and international politics, with a focus on U.S. foreign policy. His work has appeared in the *Atlantic*, the *Atavist*, *Politico Magazine*, *Foreign Affairs*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. This is his first story for *Middlebury Magazine*.

Writer **Ryan Jones** ("Koby Altman's Home Court") spent seven years on the staff of the hoop bible *Slam* magazine, a tenure that included a stint as editor in chief. While at *Slam*, he wrote the first national magazine feature on a high school phenom named LeBron James. Jones bleeds Nittany Lion blue-and-white and tweets prolifically @thefarmerjones.

**Lindsay Wheeler '14** ("Out of Darkness, Light") is a writer and mental health advocate. She speaks at mental health conferences around the country—most recently the National Association of Mental Illness's New York State Education Conference—and blogs at ls.wheeler.com, where she has attracted more than 20,000 readers. Of those who support her, she writes, "They give me accountability. If I isolate, I hear from them. I first thought of my first public speech as an exercise of standing alone in a public confessional. Now I think of the day I finally spoke out as my birthday; the day I was born and set free."

## CORRESPONDENCE

"What Did I Just See?"
A schoolhouse fire in Cleveland shocked the nation in 1908 and then was largely forgotten to history—until now. With an academic treatment unlike any you've ever seen, scholar Michael Newbury, filmmaker Daniel Houghton '04, and a team of students shine a new light on an American tragedy.
BY MATT JENNINGS
THE DAY WOULD BEGIN LIKE MOST ANY OTHER IN COLLINWOOD, OHIO, a rapidly industrializing suburb of Cleveland.
Its 8,000 residents would rise on this morning of March 4, 1908, with most of the men trudging off to work in the railyard that dominated the town or in the foundries and steel mills that had sprung up along the tracks.
Mothers would shuffle their children off to school, to the stately three-story building—just six years old—with its impressive masonry façade, its arched doorways, its high windows.
The children, about 370 or so, would trundle into the Lake View School, their footsteps and laughter echoing throughout the building as they tramped across the yellow pine floors—floors that gleamed due to the kerosene used to clean and polish them—and rushed up and down the grand, open front stairwell that rose from the basement all the way to the attic.
Lake View School was aesthetically impressive to behold; only later would the architects of the building admit that it was designed for tragedy.
By the time the sun set that day, March 4, 1908, 175 souls—all but three belonging to children—would be lost.
At around 9:30 on the morning of March 4, a fire broke out in the building. With all that wood acting as fuel, an inferno grew, a roaring beast of searing flame and thick smoke that was constrained by only one thing: the school's brick walls. In a matter of minutes, the Lake View School in Collinwood, Ohio, had been transformed into a firebox, with its stately brick façade now functioning as a massive chimney.
The school had just two exterior doors; one was blocked by fire, which left a lone opening to serve as the main point of egress for the nearly 400 inside. First responders—mainly the parents of the schoolchildren, who rushed to the building as word of the fire spread—would later speak of desperate attempts to free children from the massive pile of bodies that filled the only exit.
There was no hope to extinguish the blaze. Though there were plenty of cars in 1908, Collinwood's fire equipment was still drawn by horses, and when the fire broke out, the town's service animals were hitched to road-grading equipment, smoothing dirt roads more than a mile away. By the time the volunteer fire department arrived, it was too late to do anything but stare in horror. Less than an hour after the first spark, the fire in Collinwood had brought down the Lake View School.
Though some bodies were impossible to identify, town officials ultimately declared that 172 children, two teachers, and one rescuer had lost their lives in the fire. Most of the deceased directly corresponded with the changing demographics of the industrial boom town: 85 percent came from families who had moved to Collinwood since 1900; 79 percent of the victims had fathers who worked in the railroads, in factories, in construction, or as day laborers; and 64 percent of the victims were from immigrant families.
In the days that followed, local and national media amplified the tragedy. Sensationalist headlines screamed "ONLY ASHES OF DEAD NOW IN THE FIRE'S RUINS," the *Cleveland News*; "170 CHILDREN DEAD IN FIRE; Penned in Death Trap in School, Little Ones Are Killed by Scores in Sight of Their Parents," *Boston Post*. Teachers—seven of whom out of nine survived—were both lionized and scrutinized. The lone male in the building, the janitor, was initially cast as the villain and probable source of the fire; he was ultimately cleared of wrongdoing and emerged as a highly sympathetic character (three of his five children perished in the blaze). Even a movie emerged from the ashes. A Cleveland entrepreneur named William Bullock was one of the citizens who rushed to the scene, yet unlike everyone else, he did so with a movie camera. Bullock owned Cleveland's first movie house, and he subsequently screened scenes of the horror to captivated audiences.
And then the story of the Collinwood fire began to recede from people's consciousness. Not all at once, but gradually, until all that remained was a plaque at the site of the former school and some wispy, fragmented memories in the minds of some. By the turn of the next century, hardly anyone—even people in Cleveland—had heard of one of the deadliest school fires in American history.
ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO, Michael Newbury was researching disasters in America at the dawn of the 20th century. The American studies professor was particularly interested in how stories of these disasters—earthquakes, hurricanes, industrial accidents—were told, and he thought that perhaps his research would lead to a book of essays, a cultural history of disasters. He had been spending a little bit of time learning about an explosion at a flour mill in Minneapolis in the late 1890s when a document trail led him to another Midwestern tale, one that unfolded a quarter century later: the Collinwood fire.
Newbury was stunned. A Midwesterner himself, the Chicago native had never heard of the Cleveland disaster, even though the subject matter, the era, even the location were all areas of his scholarly interest. He quickly discovered why this was: the only professional scholarship on the fire is a 20-page pamphlet produced by the Cleveland Public Library in 2008,
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### MUCH TO THINK ABOUT

I thought Matt Jennings's winter cover story "What Did I Just See?" on the Collinwood Fire project was a fine piece of writing. He captured the serendipity of collaboration, the excitement of the creative process, and the ambiguity of the historical "record."

One finishes reading it thinking about the historian's craft, the artistic factor in the writing of history in whatever form, and about the meaning of an animation. "What did I just see?"

—Robert Schine, *Weybridge, Vermont*

*The writer is the Curt C. and Else Silberman Professor of Jewish Studies at Middlebury.*

### DOUBLING DOWN

I read with interest and approval the interview with Victor Filpo ("Being Victor") in a recent *Middlebury Magazine*. I was impressed and reached out to Victor to express my appreciation. I am a retired public school principal, and I devoted my career to peddling the notion, expressed by W.H. Auden, that "we must love one another or die." For me, our times call for a doubling down on that truth, and I always look to hear the message repeated.

The intention and the tone of the magazine's piece offers a wonderful response to these questions: What can I do? How am I powerful? I would hope to hear the message delivered over and over. I would hope to confirm there are Victors everywhere. I know a few personally here in New York City and I spot them everywhere—young men and women coming from school, enjoying a level of camaraderie that derives from being *attached* to people with backgrounds different from their own. That lesson of caring and the power of the individual is being delivered. We need more.

Publications around the country such as yours will do well to continue with this work. I am reminded of the (for me) great Barbara Jordan, the congresswoman from Texas who promised young black women that one of them, even one, could change the world.

—Gil Cass, *New York, New York*

### SIMPLY AMAZING

Bianca Giaever's profile of Cloe Shasha in the winter issue ("Regarding Cloe") is amazing, simply amazing. This is the kind of read that makes one feel slightly warmer inside. What a wonderful, well-written narrative.

—Brian Isbell '12, *Commenting on middmag.com*

### MORE LOVE FOR CLOE

I love this story!!! Such a vivid, fun, thoughtful, and personal look into an amazing woman and an adorable friendship. Thank you.

—Vanessa Evers, *Commenting on middmag.com*

### AND MORE

"Regarding Cloe" is a great article and amazing inspiration to young women. Thanks for sharing!

—Kevin Peterson (@KevinP4Real), *Commenting on Twitter*

### ON PHOTOGRAPHING CLOE

At the TED headquarters, there is a daily running count of the number of TED videos viewed projected onto a glass wall. At 8 a.m. the number was already well into the millions. Cloe told me that there is never not someone viewing a TED Talk video.

Lighting-wise I kept things simple to facilitate changing locations—three Profoto AcuteB 600r battery-powered packs. The key light for the desk area shot and the opening shot was a Profoto Medium-Deep White Umbrella with a diffuser. The stage area setup was keyed with a Chimera Small Softbox with a fabric grid to control the light's spill.

The opening image was shot in a small raised conference area. I liked the wallpaper and the Irving Penn corner wedge vibe. We removed the conference table and had just enough space to make the image work. My key light took inspiration from the window light but we did draw the window shades to have full control over the light. It also kept Cloe's shadow on camera left from going overly blue.

—Jon Roemer, *Excerpted from the blog* Learning to See

### ONE LAST THING ON CLOE

A good friend of the magazine wrote a personal letter to the editor recently, in which the writer touched on such normal things as asking about family members, sharing news of recent work accomplishments, and making plans to catch up over coffee soon. The subject heading of his email, though, was "Well damn," and the writer began his note with this sentiment: "Holy shit, Matt, that Bianca Giaever piece on Cloe may be the finest piece of prose ever to appear in the magazine, which is saying a lot." We thought it too good not to share, which we do with his permission.

—The Editors

### *DANKE SCHÖN*

I enjoyed so very much the story "Tales of Two Cities" in your winter edition. And having spent considerable time in Berlin, my first visit being in 1966, Joseph Pearson's "Postcard from Berlin" was so very interesting. His extremely accurate description of the sites that make "Berlin Berlin" brought back so many memories and described the city as a place to which I'll always want to return, and have many times.

His "favorite landmark" is the radio/TV tower in Alexanderplatz. There's not a better place from which to see the entire city from above, unless, of course, it's raining, cloudy, overcast—as the weather in Berlin often can be. I'd like to add just one comment: After the structure was built, it immediately became apparent—particularly to West Berliners—that the sun produced a beautiful reflection from the huge sphere at the top of the tower: a shape resembling the Christian cross. And West Berliners immediately named it "Die Rache des Papstes"—which means "Revenge of the Pope." Perfect! And that image from an "agnostic state's" most prominent landmark!

Thanks to Joseph for his outstanding piece.

—David Strack, MA German '71, *Yucaipa, California*

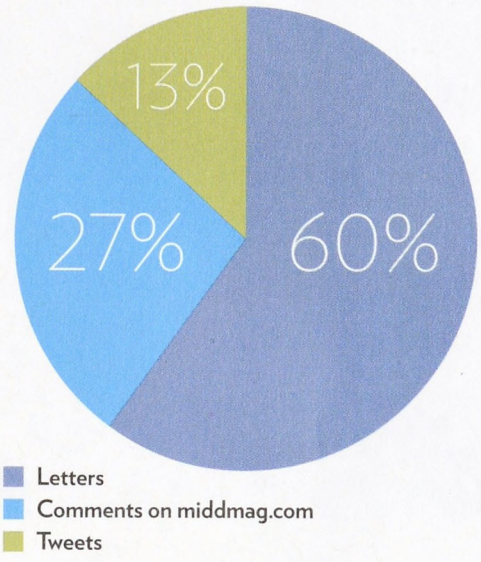
### HOW KISS IS LIKE CARLY SIMON

I just received my winter 2018 issue of *Middlebury Magazine* here in Vienna, Austria—city of beautiful music, where I now live. I read "Radio, Radio" and in particular, the editor's reflection on James Taylor with great interest because it brought back fond memories of the cold, dark, and early winter mornings of 1986–1987 when I was a WRMC radio DJ with the hottest timeslot imaginable: 3–5 a.m. on a random midweek morning (the exact day escapes me). Let me explain.

While most of our College's students would still be snoozing at that time, our local neighbors in the dairy industry were already wide awake and well into their days. One morning, around 4:00, as I prepared to spin another disc, I asked listeners to call me with their musical requests. I had made myself a promise early when I started as a DJ that each request deserved "air time," regardless of my personal view of the artist, album, or song. My rule of thumb was this: search for the vinyl in the library and if I found the right song, play it. If the album was not in the library, I could

**Mail Bag** After the publication of our winter issue, Twitter was all a-peeping about Bianca Giaever's wonderful profile of Cloe Shasha. We capture some of that sentiment in our Talk pages. Folks also enjoyed sharing fond memories of WRMC, the College's radio station, which was the subject of the winter issue's editor's note.

### HOW YOU CHOOSE TO TALK




**1**

**LETTER THAT IDENTIFIED "THE FINEST PIECE OF PROSE" EVER PUBLISHED BY THE MAGAZINE**

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**FACEBOOK LIKES FOR OUR SPRING 2017 COVER, WHICH WAS A COVER-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINEE IN A CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAGAZINE EDITORS**

**100**

**PERCENTAGE OF TWEETS WE PUBLISHED ABOUT THE WINTER STORY "REGARDING CLOE" THAT INCLUDED THE WORD "AMAZING"**

Robyn Erman '97, Kris McGuffie '97, and their sons.

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choose my own selection as a replacement, but needed to acknowledge the decision on air.

The WRMC phone rang at 4:02 a.m., and the caller asked to hear anything from the group Kiss. After a thorough search of the library yielded no Kiss albums, I chose an alternate and prepared to spin it at 4:09 a.m. "Thanks to our caller from Vergennes who called in with a musical request. Sorry about this, but I couldn't find anything in our archives from Kiss, so I selected something else for you. I hope you'll enjoy it just as much... Here's Carly Simon."

Two minutes later the phone rang again and it was my Vergennes fan. He was thrilled to have been mentioned on air and told me that he loved listening to my show.

What's the lesson? Music links people across space, time, culture, and place. And WRMC has been a connection point for a broad range of Middlebury music fans for decades. I'm thrilled to have played a small role!

—Kirsten Detrick '87, *Vienna, Austria*

### WORTHY OF ATTENTION

My fondest memories of Middlebury College involve WRMC. Every Thursday night from 10 p.m. to midnight I hosted "Hip-Hop Education 101." It was a welcome break from my long hours spent studying in Bi Hall.

WRMC really is a family, and I love to see it get the attention it deserves as one of the most eclectic, vibrant organizations on campus. Now, Matt, what Wu-Tang songs were you playing?

—Matt Postler '11, *Commenting on middmag.com*

*Editor's Note: There aren't a lot of "clean" options, as I'm sure you are aware! The track I played that day was "Protect Ya Neck."*

### NO—THANK YOU!

Thanks to WRMC DJ (and editor of *Middlebury Magazine*) @mvjennings for an incredible write-up on everyone's favorite college radio station.

—WRMC Loves You (@WRMC911), *Commenting on Twitter*

### PARENTAL RIGHTS

I'd like to offer a point of clarification to Matt's fine informative note about WRMC. Initially, the signal was fed via phone lines, into a "transmitter," which created a carrier current signal. This signal ran through the wiring of dorms, and not "open-air broadcast" until WRMC finally got an FCC license for 10 watts and was truly "on the air!"


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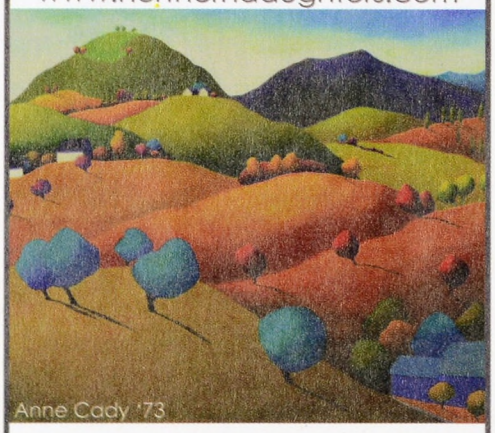


ART IN VERGENNES

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I was president of WRMC when we persuaded the Board of Trustees to apply for the FCC license and have always felt one of my major achievements was "birthing" a real on-the-air station for Middlebury College. (That said, John Bowker '52 rightfully deserves credit for the initial creation of WRMC.)
—Jiffy Starr Johnson '65, *Springfield, Illinois*

### HARD TO ENVISION

I read the "Envisioning Middlebury" article in the winter 2018 issue with particular interest. I have worked as a higher education administrator for two decades and have a doctorate in the field, so for better or worse, issues like organizational leadership, strategic frameworks, learning outcomes, etc., are "my thing."

First, I can only imagine the time, effort and commitment it took to formulate Middlebury's new strategic framework. After studying the article and the accompanying figures, however, I am left confused by it all. The circular figure representing the framework is incredibly complicated and can't be interpreted without the so-called "explainer." A reader should be able to readily interpret this figure!

I am really flummoxed, however, by the dark blue inner circle labeled "Distinction." The paragraph in the explainer states that "Distinction" refers to what distinguishes Middlebury from most other institutions. Then it says, "Note that this term is singular, and that is intentional." What does this mean? What term is singular? Does this mean "distinction" is singular? If so, okay, but why is it intentionally singular? The explainer has explained very little and I'm left feeling like it's just PR fluff. Plus, the four elements of "Distinction" are an odd mixture of skills (intercultural competency and communication), global programs, and an approach to teaching and learning (I think, I'm not really sure what horizons are). The global programs, and I suppose the approach to teaching, are all well and good, but the skills? Who has these skills? Do faculty and staff have these skills? Are they student learning outcomes? How are these outcomes achieved? Are these four elements related? If these four elements distinguish Middlebury, what's the evidence for that and how does the college go about doing these things with distinction? I went to the framework's website in search of more explaining and alas, it was equally obtuse. I could go on, but I think I've made my point.

In short, I am disappointed that the framework is not communicated more effectively and influentially, something that is supposed to distinguish Middlebury from other institutions. How ironic!
—Hannah Covert '92, *New Orleans, Louisiana*

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### EGREGIOUS ERROR

I have just paged through my new *Middlebury Magazine* and saw, with regret, the obituary for Joan Allen, my former boss at the College library. I worked with her for several years in the 1980s after I graduated, and remained friends with her long after.

So I know she would be equally as horrified as I that you say she worked at Storrs Library! Storrs is the city that is home to the University of Connecticut. The Middlebury College Library is Egbert Starr Library, named for the 19th-century gentleman who was instrumen-

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tal in keeping Middlebury College alive at a difficult time and whose generous donation actually founded the library that bears his name.

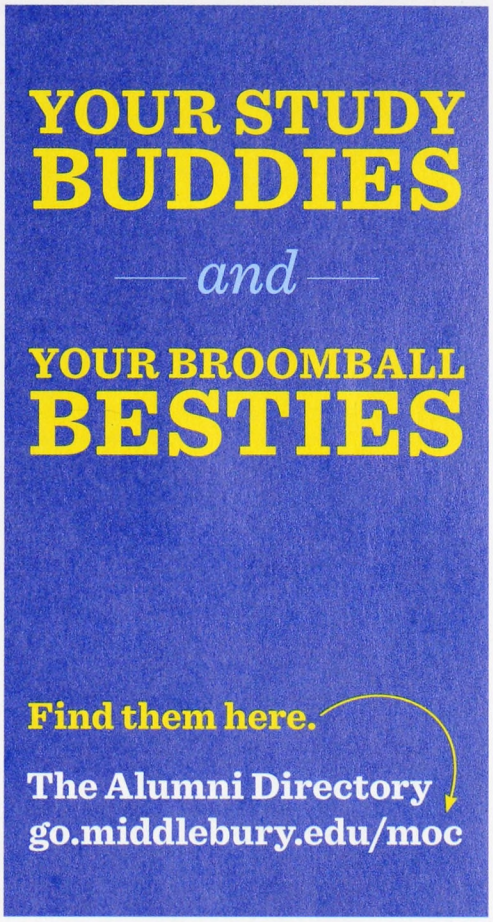
Apparently, knowing the names of the buildings on campus is not required of the magazine's staff or editors.

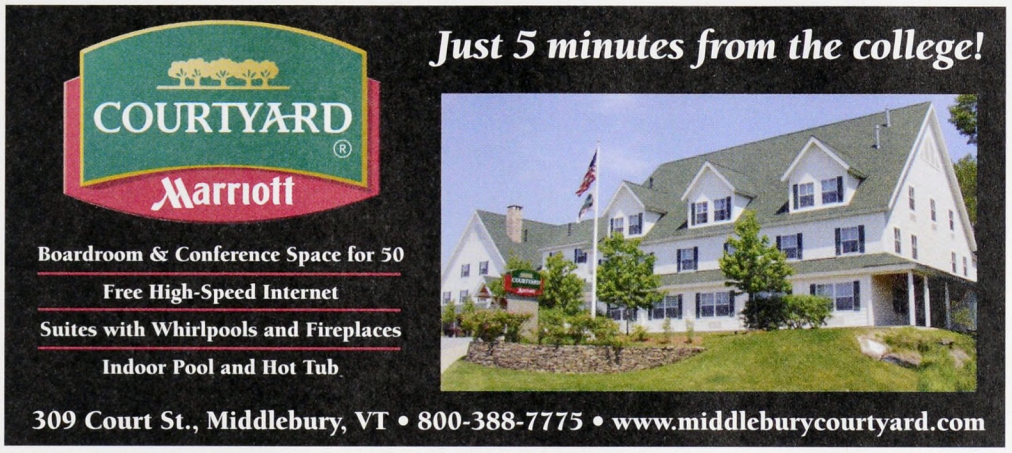
—India Tresselt '80, *Westford, Vermont*

*Editors' Note: Ms. Tresselt is, of course, correct, and we're equally horrified at the error, as well.*

### RETURN TO THE HIGH ROADS

My son George Wells '18 recently spent win-

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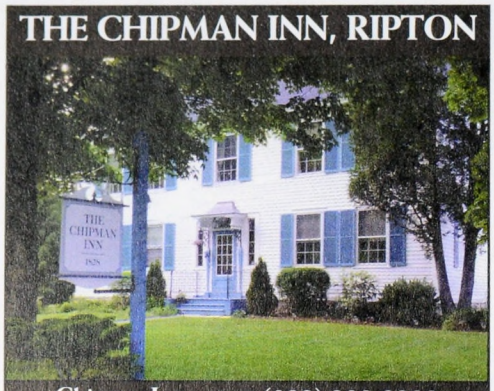

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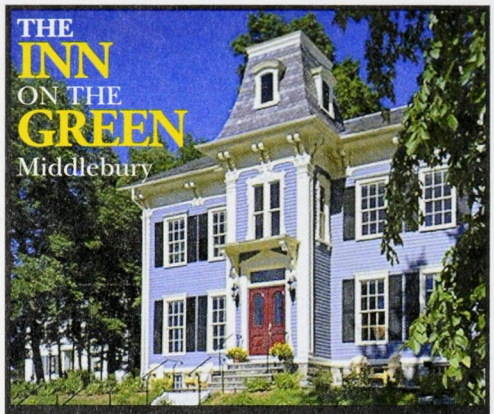

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ter term in Peru, and his experience there was your fall cover story ("The High Road") brought to life.

Of note, prior to matriculating at Middlebury, George spent the last four months of his 2014 gap year living and working in Ollantaytambo, Peru, the launching off point to Machu Picchu. That he could return to Peru again with Middlebury, yet also be able to reunite with his gap-year community and young students was a gift.

This opportunity was terrific on so many levels.

—Kathryn Wells, *Stamford, Connecticut*

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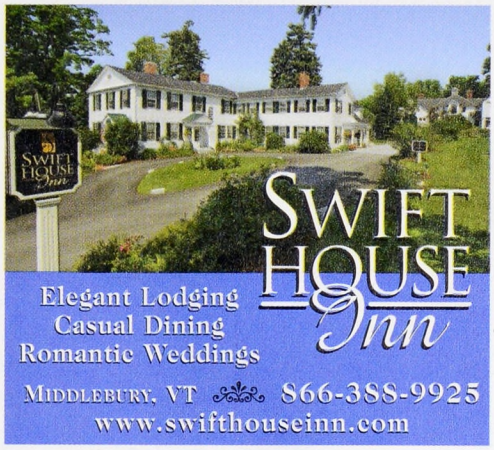
### THANKS, DOM!

I just wanted to compliment everyone on the magazine staff for what—as far as I know—is the new digital format of the magazine. Keep up the good work.

—Dom Coulson '94, *Ottawa, Canada*

### RECENT GOOD NEWS

We recently learned that the Society of Publications Designers (SPD) recognized this magazine for excellence in a pair of categories in the association's 53rd annual design competition. An illustration by artist Katy Dockrill that helped tell the story of "Parting Words"—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in which graduates expressed what they will miss most about Middlebury—commissioned for our Map Department, was granted an award of merit in the illustration category.

And Brett Simison's stunning photograph of the dance troupe Bandaloop performing on the side of the Mahaney Center for the Arts—an image featured in the fall issue—is a finalist for an SPD medal, the highest award the organization grants. This is the first time *Middlebury Magazine* has been a finalist for an SPD medal.

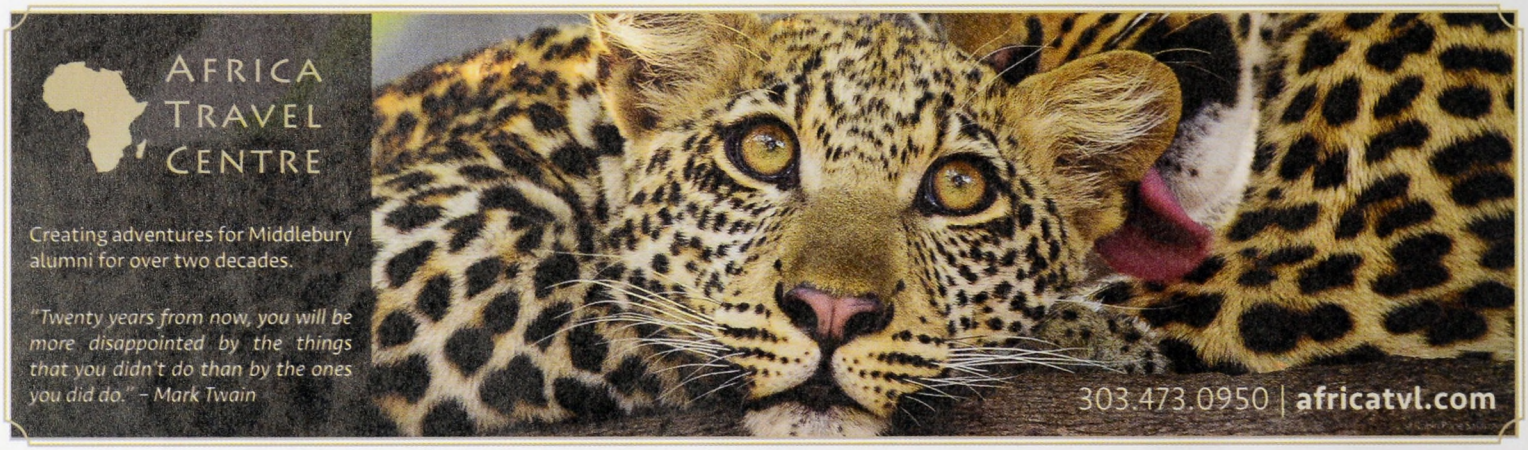
—The Editors

### FIND US ON INSTAGRAM

Are you following *Middlebury Magazine* on Instagram? Well, if you are not, then you should. Not only do we post images culled from our pages—both original art and page spreads—but we will take you behind the scenes, as well, showing you how the magazine gets made. We also may occasionally break news. It was on Instagram that we announced that Brett Simison's stunning photograph of the dance troupe Bandaloop was a medal finalist in the SPD annual design competition. The post earned a round of huzzahs, including commentary from the folks at Bandaloop (@bandalooping), who commented: "Whaaaaaaa. Amazing! Congrats!"

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity or clarity. On any given subject we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue, letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: *Middlebury Magazine*, 152 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.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# UpFront


24 For the Record

25 Q&A

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30 Map

Filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick join Mike Heaney '64 and history prof. Jim Ralph '82 on stage in Wilson Hall for an engaging conversation about the PBS documentary *The Vietnam War*. Photograph by Yeager Anderson '13

# What We're Talking About

**Emmie Donadio** has retired. For nearly 30 years, Donadio has helped lead Middlebury's Museum of Art, holding many titles—most recently, curator of modern and contemporary art and director of programs and events—while fulfilling roles that defy mere categorization. She has curated more than 200 exhibits, taught winter term courses, codirected the museum's summer internship program, and coedited the museum's collections handbook. She has been a mentor, a colleague, and a friend to so many—in the museum, on campus, and in the art world. We wish her nothing but the best.

At its winter meeting, the **Board of Trustees approved tenure recommendations** for five members of the Middlebury College faculty: William Amidon (geology), Christal Brown (dance), Irina Feldman (Spanish), Erick Gong (economics), and Damascus Kafumbe (music).

The **Class of 2017.5** celebrated the completion of their academic work at Middlebury according to custom: 121 members gathered in Mead Chapel for Commencement ceremonies on a frigid winter morning, followed by a trip up the mountain to the Snow Bowl, where graduates participated in the traditional "ski-down."

Middlebury has been noted as a top producer of **Fulbright Students and Fulbright Scholars** for the 2017–18 academic year—one of just 16 U.S. bachelor's institutions to appear on both lists. Ten recent graduates and three faculty members are current recipients of Fulbright scholarships.

The **Middlebury College Performing Arts Series** has joined Music Accord, a consortium that commissions new compositions in the chamber music, instrumental recital, and song genres. The group's membership includes top music presentation groups from throughout the United States, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and numerous performing arts series at colleges and universities.

The **Vermont Department of Health** alerted the Middlebury community to an outbreak of mumps at neighboring institutions St. Michael's College and the University of Vermont. As this issue went to press, no cases of mumps have appeared at Middlebury, where approximately 99 percent of the undergraduates have been immunized against the disease.

**Middlebury's office of sustainability integration** has launched a student incubator for environmental initiatives on campus: the sustainability solutions lab. Providing space and resources for students to research the feasibility of projects that would enhance Middlebury's sustainability efforts, the lab opened in winter term with 12 undergraduate interns exploring ideas that ranged from the expansion of solar, wind, and hydro power on campus to the installation of energy dashboards in residence halls to enhance transparency of energy consumption. A report of the lab's early findings will be forthcoming this spring.

**Laurie Patton** has joined fellow college presidents in signing a letter seeking repeal of a provision in the 2017 tax act that would impose a 1.4 percent excise tax on endowments of private colleges and universities with more than 500 students and net assets of at least $500,000 per student. The letter, which describes the new tax as "unprecedented and damaging," is signed by 49 institutions including Harvard, Stanford, and Yale, as well as fellow NESCAC schools Amherst, Bowdoin, Colby, Hamilton, Trinity, and Williams. The tax would not currently apply to Middlebury, whose endowment is below the $500,000-per-student threshold.

When the 68th Berlin International Film Festival opened in February, a handful of movies were touted as must-see features. New releases from American directors Steven Soderbergh and Wes Anderson were highlighted—and so, too, was the feature directorial debut of **Ioana Uricaru**, an assistant professor of film and media culture at Middlebury. Though her work on the film titled *Lemonade* has been ongoing for nearly a decade, it couldn't be more of the moment: a single mother arrives in the U.S. from Romania with her young child, and the two get caught in a web of confusion and tumult as immigration status, power dynamics, and the human condition all collide.

A large contingent of Middlebury students, faculty, and staff joined hundreds of local high school students and other community members in a **mid-March demonstration** intended to further awareness of the effects of gun violence in the nation's schools and communities. Being part of the national school walkout movement, the Middlebury demonstration occurred during a blinding snowstorm—local high schools were canceled due to weather, so the demonstrators gathered on the town's Cross Street Bridge—but the conditions did not seem to suppress either turnout or enthusiasm.

**Saifa Hussain** has been appointed associate chaplain at Middlebury. Previously a community organizer in Chicago and Vermont, Hussain is a graduate of DePaul University, where she was an active leader in the Muslim Student Association. She fills a position previously shared by Beau Scurich and Naila Baloch.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORIS LORA

Q & A

# On Stage

Alex Draper '88 is an associate professor of theatre at Middlebury and founding member of the College's off-Broadway theatre company, Potomac Theatre Project/NYC, where he now serves as associate artistic director. For more than 25 years, he has performed on stage, in film, and on television, and the magazine recently caught up with Alex (and his corgi, Frodo) to talk about his acting life, a recent role in a hit television series, and plans for his sabbatical.

**You know, Frodo has upstaged you in this photo.**
Of course. That's what he always does; it's his job.

**He was a natural.**
He takes direction very well.

**So, I want to start by asking you about the arc of your job—in the course of a year, you can go from the classroom to off-Broadway, to the set of a network television show. . . .**
It may seem disparate, but I see everything as being connected. What we do off-Broadway with the Potomac Theatre Project (PTP) fuels what we do in the classroom, providing this amazing experience not only for those of us on the faculty, but for students as well, to work with Equity actors and to perform out there in the world.

**And then you come back. . . .**
And then we come back each fall, and everyone is enriched from having had that experience.

**Except last fall, you had a brief interlude between New York and Vermont.**
That was so much fun, and it fit perfectly between the end of the PTP season and the beginning of classes.

**We're talking about your guest role in the NBC television series *Taken*. Was it hard to transition from the stage to screen so quickly?**
Well, we're trained to do that. If you're an actor, you may be on stage every night and then auditioning the next day for a TV part. You just adjust to whatever medium you're in.

**You had a fairly significant role in this episode.**
It's the first time I've ever had a stunt double—there was a lot of action involved, and a lot of long days filming in the woods. Making a one-hour television drama is a lot like shooting a movie in two weeks. It's very intense but also a lot of fun.

**And I understand some folks you worked with will be coming to Middlebury this spring?**
The episode's director, Stephen Kay, is coming to work with my acting class and with David Miranda-Hardy's directing class. It's going to be great, and it's yet another example of how people in this industry can be really generous with their time and energy.

**Next year, you'll be on sabbatical in Bordeaux. What will you be doing?**
I spent 10 years of my childhood in France, and I really look forward to *living* there again, living with my family, and not just visiting. Professionally, there are a lot of exciting possibilities. I'll be collaborating with one of my high school friends who is a playwright and actor. We're going to be adapting a play he has already created, adapting it to English, but not the way that you'd think. We won't be translating it; we'll be recreating it with bilingual actors. He uses this technique where he writes what is unfolding on the stage, presenting themes, and then using prompts leading, essentially, to a collective writing process. He did it in French, and now we'll do it in English.

**Will there be a part for Frodo?**
[Laughs.] We'll see.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL DAHM

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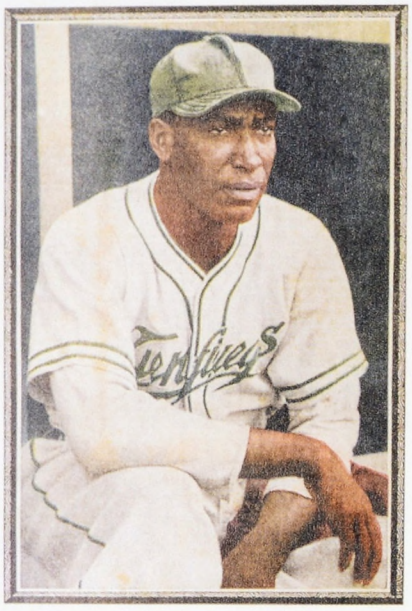


## Why I Love Martín Dihigo

By Karl Lindholm '67, Dean Emeritus of Advising

My favorite baseball player isn't Jackie Robinson—though he's the baseball player I most admire. And it's not Ted Williams, even though I was born in Boston and grew up baseball-obsessed in Maine, Red Sox country. (Teddy Ballgame was cool and distant—a god, according to Updike—so no, my favorite baseball player is not the Splendid Splinter.)

My favorite baseball player is Cuban Martín Dihigo, arguably the greatest all-around player ever to play the game. He played in the 1920s and '30s in the U.S. for the New York Cubans and the Homestead Grays—and throughout the Caribbean and Mexico.

Tall and agile, equal parts power and grace, Dihigo was a magnificent athlete, a dominant pitcher, a powerful hitter, and a scintillating fielder (both in the infield and outfield). He was elected to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1977.

In the 1970s, out of college, my consciousness raised by Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement, I read *Only the Ball Was White* by Robert Peterson, which ignited a passion for learning about the Negro leagues, baseball's "Atlantis," an act of compensation that has sustained me ever since.

In the fall of 2015, I experienced baseball in Cuba. On our itinerary was a stop at the Martín Dihigo Museum in Cienfuegos and a visit with Martín Dihigo Jr.—such a thrill.

NEWS

# Film Study

A FEW YEARS AGO, Ioana Uricaru, an assistant professor of film and media culture, was sitting in a faculty meeting when she learned that Middlebury's Bread Loaf Inn—home to the Writers' Conference and Bread Loaf School of English—was to undergo an extensive renovation that would result in the winterization of the historic property. Uricaru recalls then-president Ron Liebowitz encouraging the faculty to think of projects and programs—both existing and yet to be dreamed up—that might flourish in the space. "And I immediately thought, 'Script Lab,'" she says.

What Uricaru had in mind was a weeklong intensive retreat for a small group of fledgling screenwriters. She had attended a handful of such labs (Sundance, Torino) herself, and had learned the value of one-on-one mentorship and the luxury of networking with film professionals far removed from the distractions of the industry in Hollywood.

And then there's the Bread Loaf campus. For nearly 100 years, the locale has served as a summer gathering spot for aspiring writers and poets, a secluded place that allows one to focus exclusively on their craft. So, Uricaru thought, why couldn't she make Bread Loaf a similar destination for screenwriters? A winter retreat where one could escape the pressures and distractions of day-to-day life and focus exclusively on their dream of writing a screenplay. Uricaru's idea gained traction, receiving critical support from the Ron and Jessica Liebowitz Fund for Innovation, which would cover tuition, room and board, and some travel expenses for six fellows to attend the inaugural Script Lab. Uricaru just needed to drum up an applicant pool.

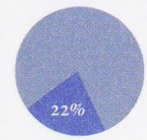
Uricaru describes the challenges of marketing the very first Script Lab, but she needn't have worried. She received more than 160 applications for the six fellowship spots. Each applicant submitted a full draft of a screenplay—no fewer than 75 pages—along with a personal statement and written responses to a handful of questions. "I would have been happy with 100 [applications]," Uricaru allows, adding that the quality of the work matched the quantity of submissions in exceeding expectations.

Several alums—filmmaker Ryan Koo '03; producer Andrew Peterson '87; writer Antonio Macia '00—made the trek to Bread Loaf to serve as mentors. Others, such as noted television showrunner Shawn Ryan '88, appeared via Skype. In all, 11 advisors joined the six fellows, as well as Uricaru's winter term screenwriting class, for a winter experience that was the first of its kind at Bread Loaf, but certainly not the last.

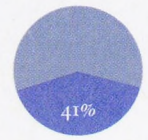
*—Matt Jennings*

# Eat Good Food

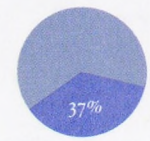
*On April 4, around 2,500 meals were served at Proctor Dining Hall—which means that, on average, each Middlebury student had one meal at the storied dining facility that spring day. We raid the kitchen and reveal the culinary details of a day at Proctor.*




Percentage of student body who came to Proctor for breakfast




Percentage of student body who came to Proctor for lunch




Percentage of student body who came to Proctor for dinner

**300**

Approximate number of panini served throughout the day

**3,840**

Meatballs served at dinner, part of Italian Night

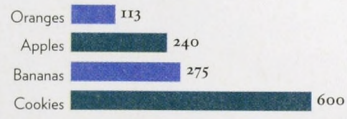
**100**

Fennel bulbs used for baked fennel and Parmesan cream

**Got . . . ?**
450 glasses of milk are consumed during the day, a number far outpaced by java. More than 1,000 cups of coffee are consumed during breakfast alone, a number that doubles by the end of the day.

**Big Stack**
What goes well with milk? Pancakes, apparently. More than 200 were consumed at breakfast, which amounts to about one pancake for every two breakfast diners.

**Snack Time**
More than 600 pieces of fruit—oranges, apples, and bananas—were consumed during the course of a day, a number nearly matched by cookies. Can you blame them?




PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ISTOCK

NEWS

# At Home

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS in John McLeod's Intermediate Architectural Design course are partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Addison County to design a residence that will be constructed for two families in the town of Middlebury in 2019.

This spring, the 14 students are exploring possibilities for the site located at 51 Seymour Street. They have researched the town's zoning regulations, examined the deed, analyzed the lot, determined the local and state permitting requirements, spoken with neighbors, and learned about Habitat for Humanity's specific needs. The students have developed three "viable approaches" to the duplex project, including a single subdivided building, two buildings loosely connected, or two completely separate structures. They have built 3-D models and created scale drawings to better understand the possibilities, and later this semester the students—along with representatives from Habitat for Humanity and their professor—will meet in open session with members of the town's Design Advisory Committee.

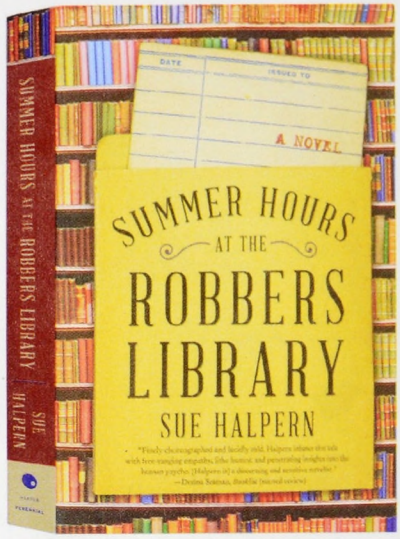
"Our goal," said McLeod, a registered architect and principal in the firm McLeod Kredell Architects, "is to have a single design scheme by the end of the semester that hopefully will have the support of the town, Habitat for Humanity, and everyone else involved. This is an experiment, a pilot project, and all of us are designing the process as we go along."

A sophomore Feb, John Henry Hanson, pointed out that in most undergraduate courses in architecture, "the design-build process is theoretical, because there is no client and the project will not be built." But HARC 330 is different because "the student is faced with the responsibilities of a practicing architect—creating a conversation with the site, the people of the town, and fellow designers."

McLeod plans to engage students in a course next fall that will advance design development, prepare working drawings, and perform cost estimates. During winter term, students will finalize the drawings and get ready for construction—by Habitat for Humanity volunteers—in the spring of 2019.

*—Robert Keren*

REVIEWS



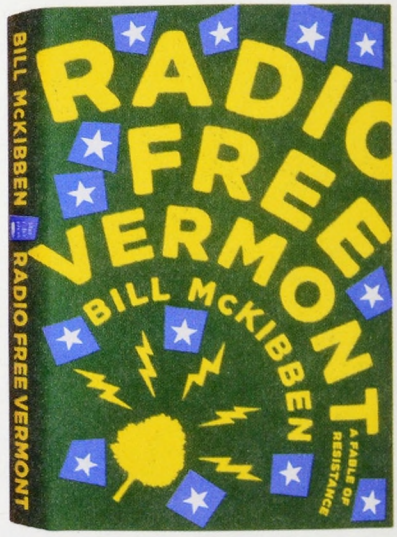

## Summer Hours at the Robbers Library

By Sue Halpern, Scholar in Residence

Review excerpt from *Publishers Weekly*

Halpern's clever and touching latest unites a disparate cast of characters who have come to the town library for a variety of reasons. Kit is a reference librarian at the library in Riverton, N.H., a once-booming mill town that has declined since the mills closed. Though residents moved away and shops were shuttered, the library has remained open, and Kit has taken refuge there to escape her irreparably fractured marriage.

Kit is mostly a loner who takes solace in books, but she opens up to Sunny, a teen sentenced to community service at the library for stealing a dictionary. Sunny, a bright, inquisitive young woman, makes friends with the regular library patrons and manages to put some cracks in Kit's carefully erected shell as they spend more time together. Sunny also befriends library patron Rusty, an unemployed former employee of a New York investment firm who has come to town to visit the bank where his mother had a secret savings account. Rusty's story line gives the novel a light mystery element, but the characters are the highlight here: their relationships are illuminating and evolve throughout, resulting in a crowd-pleasing tale of friendship.




## Radio Free Vermont

By Bill McKibben, Schumann Distinguished Scholar

Review excerpt from the *New York Times*

In his public appearances, McKibben, a Vermonter and one of the best-known environmentalists of our age, can be an extremely droll and appealing Cassandra. But there's little in his many previous books to suggest he can pull off a novel-length satire. He's a serious man. (To Bill Maher, who complained that McKibben wasn't giving him enough hopeful news, the author said: "This is your fault. You asked someone whose most famous book was called *The End of Nature*, OK?")

Yet *Radio Free Vermont* is a charming bit of artisanal resistance lit. It's a bit rough, with the occasional nail head poking up too high. (Perry's upspeak? It gets to be, um, a bit much?) But what's surprising is how well crafted the book is overall; how unhokey its folksiness feels, and how true its observations ring.

McKibben never suggests he truly believes secession is the solution in times of political turmoil. If anything, it's the opposite; the protagonist, Vern Barclay eventually worries he's asking people "to do something a little dangerous and more than a little weird." What he's proposing is merely a thought experiment, daring the reader to ponder the virtues of smallness in an age of military and corporate gigantism.

In his acknowledgments, McKibben notes that Vermont has already had one "minor-league attempt" at a secession movement, about a decade ago, that failed, spectacularly. But if non-Vermonters need refuge in the months or years ahead, he adds, "you're all welcome to come to the Green Mountain State. We'll teach you to drive dirt roads in mud season."

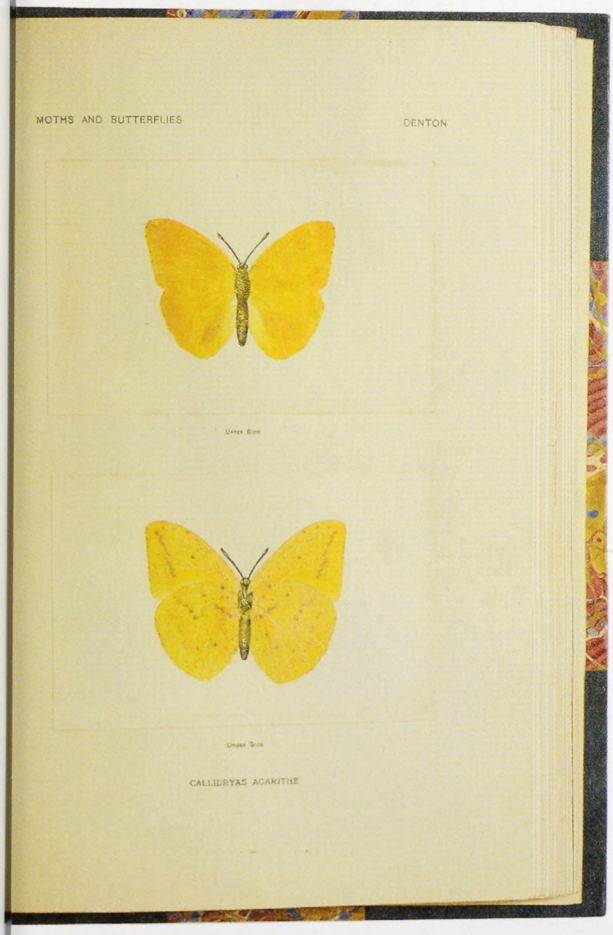
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD BALFOUR

QUOTATION

"It's really important to build contacts with people across identity boundaries that are not about identity. . . . You build social capital, you build trust by doing things together. And then once you've built those relationships, you can turn to the hard stuff, and you do so with people with whom you have a bond, a relationship that you can draw on to work on your problems together."

—**Philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah**, speaking in Wilson Hall as part of a panel discussion titled "Building a Robust Public Sphere."

ARCHIVE




**Butterfly Effect** In *As Nature Shows Them: Moths and Butterflies of the United States, East of the Rocky Mountains*, published in 1900, the images look true to life—and with good reason. As author Sherman F. Denton explains in the preface, "the colored plates, or Nature Prints, used in the work, are direct transfers from the insects themselves; that is to say, the scales of the wings of the insects are transferred to the paper while the bodies are printed from engravings and afterward colored by hand."

In publishing this multivolume work, which was limited to an edition of 500, Denton completed over 50,000 wing transfers, painstakingly rubbing the scales of the insects onto the pages of his book, a laborious form of "illustration" that destroys the specimen in the process of its own self-representation.

The book made its way to Special Collections only recently, partly at the request of Ellery Foutch, assistant professor of American studies, who wished to use it in her course on art and natural history. The book reflects the popularity of butterfly collecting around the turn of the 20th century, not just for artists and trained naturalists but for everyday folks as well; Denton's family, in fact, sold butterfly-collecting kits and special mounts for displaying one's collections.

NUMBERS

Middlebury's Hirschfield International Film Series has long been a filmgoer's lifeline in rural Vermont, catering to students, faculty, staff, and townsfolk alike. Bringing some of the best independent and foreign films to Dana Auditorium each Saturday during the academic year, the Hirschfield is hotly anticipated in Middlebury. Though the clickety-clack of the film projector may have faded in the age of digital film, the communal experience of sitting in a dark room and enjoying a fine movie lives on at Middlebury. Here's a look at the 2017–18 season by the numbers:

**12**
**AWARD-WINNING FILMS**

**1**
**OSCAR WINNER (MOONLIGHT)**

**11**
**FOREIGN-LANGUAGE FILMS**

**3**
**DOCUMENTARY FILMS (I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO, CHASING CORAL, 13TH)**

**1**
**ANIMATED FILM (MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI)**

# Signs of Spring

*"How do you know when it's spring at Middlebury?" That's the question we asked students during a campus walkabout in late March. Their responses informed this whimsical map. And while the replies ranged from the specific (people on the swings over by Twilight Hall) to the broad (birds chirping), there was a common theme: everybody is ready to emerge from winter hibernation.*



ILLUSTRATION BY ANNELISE CAPOSSELA

**1 GET MUDDY**
First comes the mud. It's a rite of passage that everyone must endure. The weather gets warm, and you want to be outside—but prepare to get muddy. Our advice? Embrace the slop. Find an activity that makes getting muddy fun.

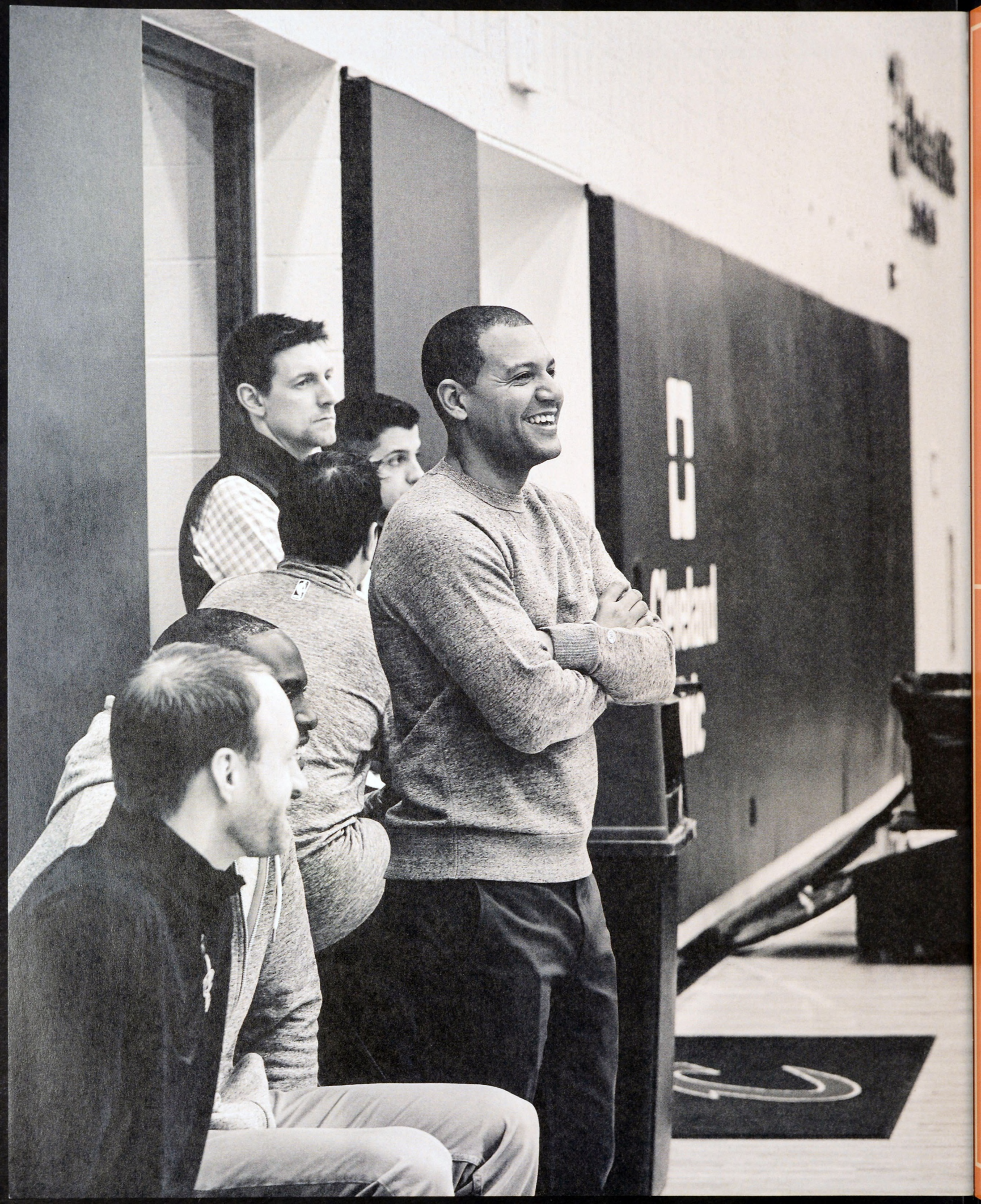
**2 ZZZZZZ**
A lot of folks seem eager for a nap, and not just any type of nap, but the kind that involves a hammock, a pair of trees, and a nice breeze. There are plenty of places on campus where one can arrange for an outdoor siesta.

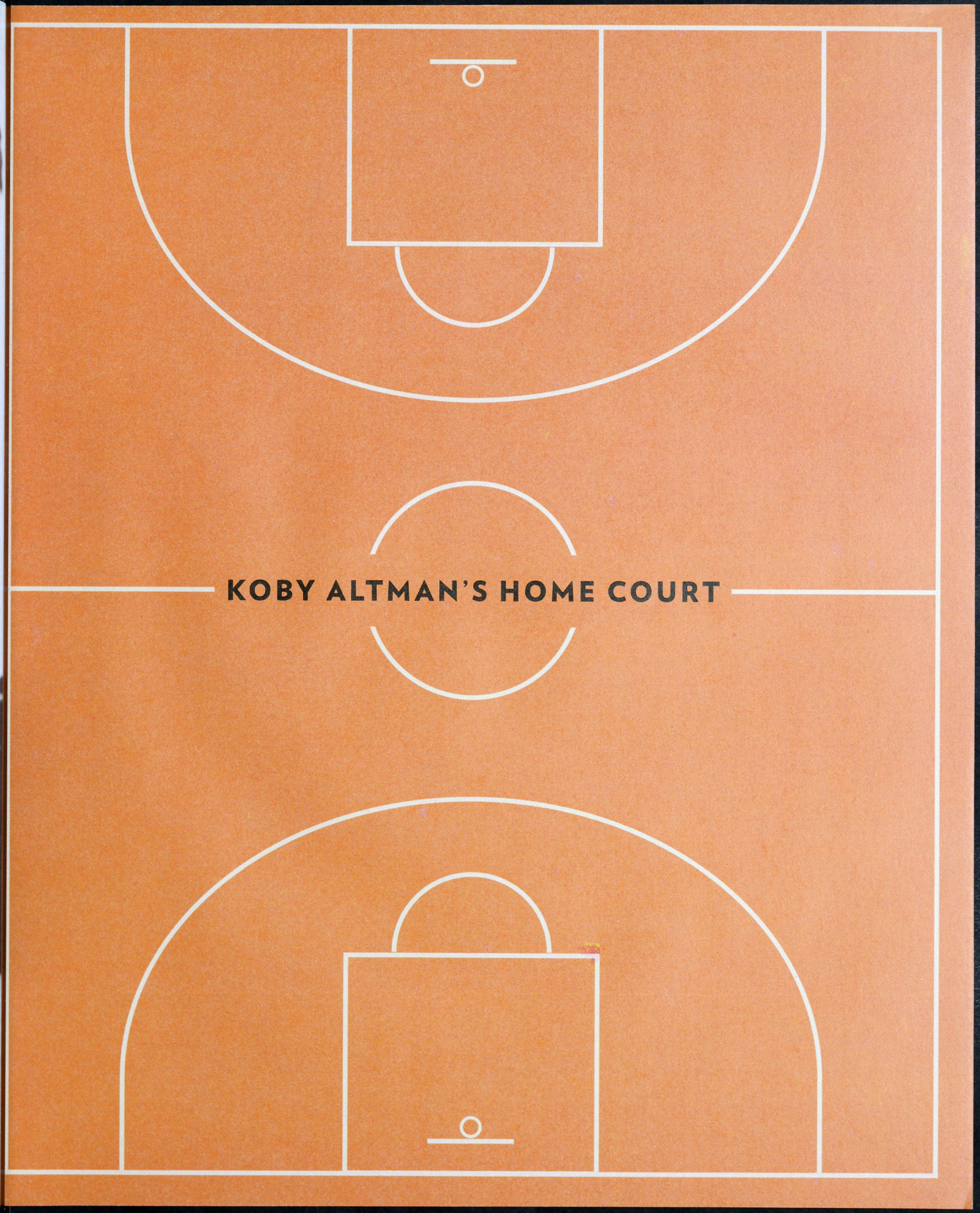
**3 EXHALE**
Sit. Chill. Daydream. This may as well have been a stream-of-consciousness response from one group of students eager for the opportunity to just . . . be. A spring day affords the perfect backdrop to do just that.

**4 BE ACTIVE**
For some, this means hiking Snake Mountain. Others might want to enjoy a nice run. And people remark that with spring comes spontaneity. A walk to the dorms may very well turn into an impromptu Frisbee toss.

**5 TAKE YOUR TIME**
Unless you are rushing to class, you're likely to see folks lingering a bit longer on the myriad paths around campus. It's not like people aren't going anywhere. They're just not going anywhere in a hurry. And who can blame them?

**6 ENJOY IT**
When the weather gets warm, make the most of it—because you never know when winter might make a final surprise appearance. It's not uncommon for the vibrant spring hues to become blanketed in snow overnight.




KOBY ALTMAN'S HOME COURT

# AS THE FIRST-YEAR GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS, KOBY ALTMAN '04 IS THRIVING IN ONE OF THE NBA'S MOST HIGH-PROFILE JOBS

BY RYAN JONES
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUKE COPPING

AT A SPACIOUS GYM IN SUBURBAN CLEVELAND, the new guy is working overtime, hoping to impress the boss. Larry Nance Jr. is a hyper-athletic six-foot-eight forward still getting used to his new surroundings. His teammates have hit the showers, but Nance is still on the court, sweating through an extended postpractice skill session with a couple of assistant coaches. One feeds him a pass or provides a screen around which Nance can maneuver; the other mimics a defender, a body for Nance to spin or dribble past en route to the basket. They talk occasionally between reps—about Nance's footwork, or the efficacy of a pump fake—but from a courtside bench, the conversation is barely audible. The only real noise is the squeak of sneakers and the thud of a bouncing ball, basketball's fundamental noise, as Nance goes to work again and again.

Koby Altman '04 watches from that bench, sharp casual in gray slacks, a light sweater, and sneakers, his back against the gym wall, his attention drawn occasionally by the vibration of his phone. It's a damp morning in late February; exactly two weeks earlier, Altman, the Cleveland Cavaliers' first-year general manager, remade his team's roster with a pair of trades that jettisoned six players and brought in Nance and three others. The deals were finalized just hours before the NBA's annual trade deadline, and they dominated conversation around the league; as a rule, title contenders don't turn over half their rosters with two months left in the season. But the Cavs, at Altman's command, had done just that.

In the space of a week, public perception of Altman had swung from "young guy in over his head" to "deadline-day genius." It was hard to tell if observers were more surprised or impressed. Altman was just glad he could finally get some rest.

"As it gets closer to the deadline, you're not sleeping," he says. "You're up until three, four o'clock in the morning, pounding the phones. Could we have done these trades a week before? Maybe, but then you don't have the mechanism of a deadline." Until you do. And then? Altman smiles. "It was a chaotic 24 hours."

The intensity of deadline day was in keeping with much of Altman's short but dynamic tenure. The league's second-youngest general manager, he was promoted from assistant GM last July to lead a team coming off its third straight appearance in the NBA finals. That was the good news; the bad wasn't bad as much as it was almost comically absurd. On the very same day that Altman's hiring was announced, news leaked that the team's all-star point guard was demanding a trade. At least Kyrie Irving was only the Cavs' second-best player. Their best—LeBron James, perhaps the best on the planet—was already the focus of a league-wide countdown to becoming a free agent in the summer of 2018.

There was no exaggerating the size of the challenge. The question was whether Altman—young, relatively unknown, and on the job for literally *hours*—could possibly be up to it. When he took the Cavs' top job, he was just five years removed from a no-profile gig as an Ivy League assistant coach. Two years before that, he was folding laundry for a USA Basketball junior team. Three years before that, he was selling real estate. And three years before *that*, he was wrapping up a decent if unremarkable playing career at Middlebury.

On paper, the pace of Altman's rise almost defies belief, but it's less of a mystery to those who know him. Longtime friends, ex-teammates, and former bosses all cite a rare mix of intelligence, work ethic, confidence, and, especially, an enviable ability to connect.

"He's an incredible people person, and an incredible communicator," says David Griffin, Altman's predecessor as Cavs' GM. Debbie Bial, whose Posse Foundation was instrumental in bringing Altman to

DING

Middlebury, describes his "unique ability to make people feel comfortable no matter what the topic of conversation is."

There's more to his success than just networking, of course, and in his first nine months on the job, Altman called on an array of skills to steer the franchise through tumult, apathy, and potential ruin. In the midst of all this, he and his fiancée welcomed their first child, a daughter who would spend the first seven weeks of her life in neonatal intensive care. Few people knew that story, and that was intentional; Altman didn't want the most difficult weeks of his life to be seen as a distraction or an excuse during the most challenging period of his career.

As we write this, on the eve of the playoffs, it's too soon to tell whether Altman has done enough to see the team back to the finals, or to keep LeBron from leaving (again). He might be mere months away from ending his first season with a championship. He might be nearly as close to having to start from scratch.

**"He had the unselfishness you look for in somebody running your offense, and he had great communication skills—you would see that in his interaction with the coaching staff or his teammates."**

KOBY ALTMAN WAS BORN IN BROOKLYN IN 1982, the only child of Deborah Altman, a social worker at Sheepshead Bay High School. His father wasn't in the picture, and Altman describes his upbringing as lower middle class but stable. "My mom was very strong and independent, and she had to work her ass off, but we had what we needed," he says. "I was in a very loving household."

Deborah Altman did everything she could to fill the parental void, building a network of male colleagues and friends who might provide Altman with the paternal example he otherwise lacked. But she did plenty on her own, including passing on an obsession with basketball that she'd developed as a grad student at the University of North Carolina. "She was a huge Carolina fan, and when she moved to New York, she became a huge Knicks fan," Altman says. He's fond of telling the story of how, when he was a few months shy of his third birthday, his mother woke him up with a celebratory scream: the Knicks had just won the NBA's draft lottery, guaranteeing them the top pick in 1985.

"Woke me up in my crib—that's a true story," he says with a laugh. "I was indoctrinated to being a Knicks fan. That was all her."

Having inherited that love of the game, Altman took to it enthusiastically. Many of his early memories revolve around a ball and a hoop, from the succession of Nerf hoops he dunked on (and broke) in the apartment he shared with his mother, to the metal backboards and unforgiving double rims at nearby Dean Street Park, where he learned the blacktop game.

"He was a basketball guy since he was tiny," says Sam Intrator, an English teacher and assistant basketball coach at Sheepshead Bay High. One of those mentors that Deborah Altman cultivated, Intrator has known Altman since the latter was in preschool.

Intrator watched as Altman, never the biggest kid, developed into a natural point guard, complete with the requisite skill set: a knack for on-court leadership, a sense of the bigger picture, and a willingness to distribute the ball. "Good point guards are able to orchestrate things, and Koby's been a point guard forever," Intrator says. "Even when he was a little guy, 11 or 12 years old, he was completely connected to what his teammates needed."

He was good enough to keep playing once he reached New Utrecht High School, even as he topped out at five-foot-10. (Altman's blunt appraisal of his own game: "Streaky shooter, good passer, really good handle.") He held out hope for a basketball scholarship, but he already knew that whatever future he created for himself would depend more on his mental capacity than his jump shot. He wanted to go to a great school, somewhere he'd be challenged, and from where the world would open up for him. A recommendation from another of his mother's coworkers helped pave the path from Brooklyn to central Vermont.

The suggestion: Altman should apply for a scholarship through the Posse Foundation, a nonprofit that identifies promising students from urban environments and places them on full scholarships at top colleges and universities. Posse now boasts more than 50 partner institutions, but at the time it had only a handful—one of which was Middlebury. Altman endured three rounds of interviews and emerged from among hundreds of applicants to make the final cut. He'd made summer trips to Vermont as a kid to stay with family friends, and he had fond memories of the state. Altman read up on the College's academics and figured he'd have a chance of making the basketball team. He and Intrator made the trip up from New York City to visit. On first impression, Altman says, "it was like a country club."

Jeff Brown never got the chance to recruit the player who would go on to start 42 games for him over four seasons. Instead, the Admissions Office gave the Middlebury coach a heads up about an incoming student who might have potential for his program. His scouting report matched Altman's self-assessment: *quick, athletic, can handle and direct his team*. Altman would never be more than a pretty good player for the Panthers, but he made an impression nonetheless.

"He had the unselfishness you look for in somebody running your offense, and he had great communication skills—you would see that in his interaction with the coaching staff or his teammates," says Brown, who recently completed his 21st season. "He was really popular with his teammates, really genuine. He was so self-assured and confident in his ability to relate."

Chris Matthiesen '04 remembers Altman similarly—well, mostly. "I used to give him grief for dribbling too much and not passing—typical New York point guard," Matthiesen says with a laugh. Now a policy advisor with a D.C. lobbying firm, Matthiesen arrived on campus just as Altman did, in the fall of 2000. "You wouldn't have known anything about his background based on the way he interacted with anyone," Matthiesen says. "He just fit in. Even with athletes and nonathletes, there's not always a huge overlap there. But he transcended that."

If that ability to read and relate to nearly anyone was an inborn skill, Altman honed it in college. It would serve him just as well as he embarked on the only logical career for a hoop-obsessed sociology major: commercial real estate. Laughing at the unexpected first step in his career

leveland Clinic

path, Altman says, "I thought maybe I should use this education and go make some money."

He did just that, parlaying a connection into an internship at the Manhattan firm Friedman-Roth. Three months in, he'd sold a $2 million property in Brooklyn, seen his first commission, and decided it might be worth sticking things out for a while. He stayed for three years, finding the work a fit for both his quick mind and his competitive fire, never realizing he was training for a dream job in basketball. He was just out of college, living back in his hometown, making real money. But it didn't take long, hardly more than a year, to realize that he missed the game.

From his office in Chelsea, Altman called Joe McGrane, head coach at Manhattan's Xavier High School, where Altman had attended basketball camps as a kid. He had an offer, or rather, a request: Could he help out with the team? McGrane was happy to have him, and so Altman would sneak out of the office for an hour in the afternoon and walk the four blocks to Xavier, assisting with the school's first-year team. Soon enough, an hour turned into two, afternoons became weekends. And Altman knew. "It just sparked it back for me," he says. "I was like, *This is what I need to be doing. I don't care how much money I'm losing. This is what I want to do.*"

Even as he kept his real estate gig, Altman started making plans. He called Intrator, who by that point was a professor of education and child studies at Smith College, and who had also started a nonprofit aimed at developing coaching skills in inner-city youth. Intrator encouraged him to go back to school, even as he acknowledged the "huge professional risk" of leaving a lucrative career still in its early stages. "From the outside, it looked like he was made to work in real estate," Intrator says. "But he followed the call of what he was passionate about."

And so began Koby Altman's decade-long crash course in basketball administration. He signed up for grad school, enrolling in the sports management program at UMass in part because it would allow him to coach; coaching, he thought, was what he wanted to do. In the fall of 2007, he joined the staff at Amherst College, where Dave Hixon had just led the Mammoths to a Division III national championship. He quickly proved he belonged in an environment where winning was expected.

"I liked him immediately," says Hixon, now in his fifth decade at Amherst. "I loved his competitiveness—almost an aggressiveness. He was just always competitive. If practice slacked a little bit, it'd tick him off. He couldn't understand why the kids weren't playing hard."

Altman spent two years on Hixon's staff, completing his master's along the way. In 2009, he left for a grad assistant spot at Southern Illinois, an entry-level job that allowed him to move up to the Division I level. That was also the year he secured the first of two side gigs with USA Basketball junior national teams. A few years removed from managing multimillion-dollar Manhattan real estate deals, Altman found himself in gyms in New Zealand and Germany, washing towels for a bunch of teenagers. "It was an unbelievable experience," he says. "And I was the best towel washer."

The jokes come easy, but for Altman, even that humble gig was proof that he could hang at a higher level: That 2009 Under-19 team featured big-name college coaches and a handful of future NBA players. "When I realized I could navigate that space, that was a big moment for me," he says. His postcollege path might look like a doubled-over line of progression and regression, starts and stops, but Altman was always learning: It was *all* progress, all building, all growth. He'd gotten smarter at every step, gained confidence and clarity. He realized he could do just about anything. And then he figured out the thing he really wanted to do.

HE STARTED, ONCE AGAIN, AT THE BOTTOM. David Griffin remembers interviewing Koby Altman for what was essentially an internship, working in the Cleveland Cavaliers' film room. This was 2012, and after that single season at Southern Illinois, Altman had coached two more years as an assistant at Columbia. But the NBA had always fascinated him. He'd decided he was ready to make the jump.

At that point, Griffin was the Cavs' VP of basketball operations; he offered Altman a couple of jobs before he accepted the role of pro personnel manager. "I loved his background," Griffin says. "You could tell that he was really mindful of how he was going to be impactful. And from a people standpoint, he just was a natural."

Title aside, Altman's job meant scouting—lots and lots of scouting: in his first month, he was on the road 20 days. It was another crash course, learning the language and pace of the professional game, as played on the court and behind the scenes. The Cavs were struggling when he arrived, two years removed from the departure of LeBron James to Miami. But with talented young point guard Kyrie Irving to build around, there was hope in the team's front office for slow, steady improvement. And Altman was going to be an integral part of it: A year after he was hired, the Cavs promoted him to director of pro player personnel.

And then things got interesting. LeBron James, the Ohio native and consensus greatest player in the game today—not to mention the guy who'd spent his first seven seasons in Cleveland before leaving for sunshine and championships in Miami—came back as a free agent. Griffin by that point was the team's GM, Altman one of his two trusted deputies, and Griffin says it was very much a group effort by the front office that put the Cavs in position not only to bring back James as a free agent, but to reshape the roster around him.

That was 2014. LeBron led Cleveland to the finals the following summer, and the Cavs went one better in 2016, winning the NBA championship for the first time. That fall, Altman was promoted to assistant GM—a position he would hold for all of 10 months. He'd turned a lifelong love of basketball into a career, he was more successful more quickly than he could've imagined, and it had rarely been boring. But this? This was something else entirely.

**And then came that flurry of deadline activity: two trades involving five teams, 10 players, and two future draft picks. For the Cavs, it was the basketball equivalent of a defibrillator.**

A DAMP FEBRUARY MORNING has turned into a chilly evening on the shore of Lake Erie. It's 90 minutes before tip-off at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, and Altman is courtside, dressed now in a suit, nursing a paper cup of coffee as he soaks up the pregame scene. "I grew up fighting to get to the 300 section in the Garden, and that was a thrill," he says of the nosebleed seats at the Knicks' home arena. "So this never gets old to me."

It might not look like he's working, but Altman says such moments are vital to his job. He's watching the players warm up and taking mental notes: How do they carry themselves? Are they focused? Do they seem to be having fun? Griffin, his old boss, had a line about scouting: it's ultimately about "brokering intelligence." For the players already on the roster, and those who might someday be, it's less about what they do in the game—almost anyone could figure that out—and more about "who they are." Griffin says Altman excels at that part of the work.

And good thing. In the summer of 2017, with the Cavs fresh off a third consecutive finals appearance, Griffin stepped down when he and team ownership couldn't come to terms on a new contract. The clock was already ticking on LeBron's free agency, barely a year away, and now Cleveland's front office was rudderless. And his replacement was . . . who, again? League insiders and plugged-in reporters knew Koby Altman's name, but few beyond that circle could've picked him out of a lineup. But there he was in late July, the next man up.

On that same July day, news broke of Irving's trade demand. Altman recalls, "I was getting texts from friends: Congrats, that's amazing! Now what are you gonna do about Kyrie?"

The immediate task: Trade arguably the best young guard in the game for something resembling equal value, a near impossibility considering Cleveland had virtually no leverage; teams knew that the Cavs had to make a trade and would try to gouge them appropriately. Altman ultimately decided his best trade partner was a division rival, the Celtics, who offered an older and slightly less dynamic scoring guard in Isaiah Thomas. Almost immediately, it appeared the Cavs had gotten fleeced: while Irving played at an MVP level, Thomas missed the first half of the season with an injury. When Thomas finally did join his new team, it was quickly apparent that the fit was wrong, and signs of locker room discord in Cleveland grew too obvious to ignore.

As Altman would say later, "It felt like we were marching toward a slow death."

As if trying to fix his dysfunctional roster on the fly weren't enough, Altman also had unflattering headlines to contend with. In the weeks leading up to the trade deadline, a writer for the *Athletic* referred to Altman as "widely regarded as not ready for the mammoth task in front of him." At *Bleacher Report*, another writer described Altman as a figurehead GM, "along for the ride" while the team's ownership handled actual decision making. And LeBron, by that point just six months shy of his own free agency, was reportedly fed up with the whole mess.

And then came that flurry of deadline activity: two trades involving five teams, 10 players, and two future draft picks. For the Cavs, it was the basketball equivalent of a defibrillator: it might not save their season, but it provided a desperately needed jolt.

"We still don't know if this is going to work," Altman says, "but we feel a much better energy. The aura in the building is so much better."

So, suddenly, were the headlines. Praise flowed in, from fans on social media, from reporters, and, most significantly, from his best player. "I think Koby did a heck of a job understanding what our team needed," James told reporters a few days later. Griffin, meanwhile, took to Twitter to offer a proud told-you-so: "Koby Altman and the Cavs front office were never in over their heads, just handed a nearly untenable situation and have found a way to thrive!"

When we spoke in Cleveland, Altman had had the benefit of two relatively quiet weeks to assess both his new-look team and the surrounding noise. He had managed the seemingly impossible, making the Cavs better both in the short term—they'd strengthened the roster and jettisoned the potentially toxic elements in the locker room—and improving the team's long-term outlook: A better team meant LeBron was more likely to stay beyond this summer, but if he left, the Cavs would be in a better position to survive his departure.

"Would I have been able to predict we could pull this off? No," Altman says. "But I knew the stakes."

He'd been aware, too, of the doubts, both within and outside the organization. Aware, but, he insists, unbothered. "What was concerning to me wasn't 'Is he ready,' all that stuff," he says. "What was concerning was that we weren't playing well." And so he ignored the noise and immersed himself in the work, now leading the decision-making team he'd recently been a part of.

He talks about the work of his analytics team, breaking down stats that don't show up in conventional box scores. He talks about the scouts doing what he was doing five or six years ago, on the road relentlessly, noting the tendencies and weaknesses and strengths of dozens of opposing players, any of whom might someday be pieces in the Cavs' puzzle. He talks about the phone calls and texts with agents and fellow GMs, informal fact-finding missions, all to gauge the possibilities. The process, he says, started long before deadline day.

In that, he might as well be talking about his own life. The love of a game, virtually sewn into his DNA. A gift for reading and understanding people, of *relating*, whether he encountered them on a Brooklyn playground, in a Manhattan skyscraper, or on the campus of a small liberal arts college. It's an adaptability, and a knack for negotiation, and a competitiveness that doesn't get in the way of his amiability but drives him just the same. That process, the one that readied him for all this, has been under way for 35 years.

Altman and his fiancée, Rachael Garson, are set to get married this summer (they asked David Griffin to officiate, and he's getting ordained specifically to conduct the ceremony). Their daughter, Sophie Jane Altman, will be in attendance. Born two days after Christmas, Sophie was diagnosed in the womb with gastroschisis, a birth defect that causes the intestines to develop outside the body. It's a manageable condition, and Altman says her prognosis was always good, but doctors couldn't do anything about it until the child was delivered. In Sophie's case, that meant spending her first 47 days in the neonatal ICU at the Cleveland Clinic, undergoing and recovering from a pair of surgeries before she could finally go home.

The trade deadline was February 8. She came home four days later.

"It was the craziest week of my life," Altman says. "Those days around the deadline, I'd sort of skip out of the office, go see her for two hours, and not touch my phone. It wasn't fun, but it was great perspective. And she got through it. She's a fighter."

If he seems unflustered by the pressure, by the weight of a city's expectations, it might have something to do with all that. That sort of perspective holds up. Neither deadlines nor headlines can faze Altman now.

# Out of Darkness } Light

BY LINDSAY WHEELER '14

ILLUSTRATION BY SANDRA DIONISI

WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, I would lie in bed at night and pray for a torrential thunderstorm that would knock out the power at my house. When that happened, I would leave my bedroom, the one with the adhesive glow-in-the-dark stars that speckled the ceiling, and I would huddle with my family of four in my parents' bedroom. My mom and dad would light dozens of candles, and as I drifted off to sleep, the soft glow from the flames would wrap itself around me like a warm blanket. I would feel safe; that warmth was a comfort that wouldn't flee at the first sign of something scary.

My mental illness is an entity that, before I knew what it was and who I was, spun me into its web as a fiber of distortion. I felt so alone and yet so at ease with the chaos, as it was all I had ever known. The lows were nearly unbearable, but I found comfort in them, as I knew there would be sunlight waiting on the other side. The highs, however, meant darkness lurked. It was a cyclical storm I fought with valiant courage, but one I could not change without help. I never let adults in, so those who tried to help me were young and ill-equipped. It swallowed me up and set me into a darkness that I would someday come to know as bipolar disorder. Marching deeper into oblivion, I became enveloped by a disease that controls you and can destroy you if you don't learn how to take it back. As it gained momentum, it obliterated everything I wanted to love about myself, and I was drawn toward toxic relationships that only perpetuated the problem. Life became a constant struggle, and I sank to the very bottom of the ocean with my feet chained to the decks of a sinking ship I didn't know I was on. I became destined by the nature of its force to be controlled, and sometimes drowned, by the disease.

Until I was diagnosed as bipolar at 22 years old, I walked through a distorted landscape that purported to be life, my every step controlled by a beast whose name I didn't know. And what is most frightening—it never occurred to me that I was drifting further from the world I had once known. I experienced sharp highs and devastating lows at such high frequency, it seemed there was no in-between. At one moment, I would feel elated by the smallest things, and at the next, I would truly believe my life was crashing down on me. As I sank, I tried to grab hold of anything that might stop me—sports, risk behaviors, social events—but that only stalled the impending horrors. I never knew what brought me to such a place of despair, but suddenly I would find myself there.

**For the first time, I felt free. The inherent power in vulnerability, in facing the insecurities that flattened me, was suddenly a means to survival.**

Before I was diagnosed, the safest place I knew was the driver's seat of my car, which cradled my back as each crisis worked its way from the inside out. The nylon was resilient to constant stress and absorbed the sounds of my sadness without judgment; dreams and secrets lay idle in the vents. When upset, I cut X marks into the faux gray leather with a razor, despite the understanding it always showed me. My bathroom floor was also no stranger to my struggles. I liked the way the cold tiles felt on my hands, which swelled up like it was July as I slapped my frustration into the floor. I knew if I turned the faucet to the right, I would reliably get cool water to splash on my face and erase the signs of another hour on the floor. Sometimes I rested beneath a sheet of bathwater and looked up at the obscured ceiling until the sting forced my eyes shut. It was not unlike the rest of my days spent walking with an empty sense of awareness, hoping if I boxed up my feelings they'd cease to exist.

I would come to blame my swollen eyes with big dark circles ringed beneath them on year-round allergies. And I would further massage my image through subterfuge: I would constantly text my friends self-deprecating jokes, playing to their laughter, all the while suppressing feelings that would burst to the surface at night—in the form of night terrors—as my brain unleashed physical violence upon my body.

Throughout college, I experienced intense pain, yet I was totally unaware of how this was affecting me. I became apathetic, compartmentalizing guilt and anxiety to the point that I was isolating myself from my surroundings. Defeat by mental illness is not romantic, despite how it's positioned in popular television. It's a slow, agonizing deterioration, which in my case would manifest in eight hours of sleeplessness and trudging to classes where I struggled to process what was being taught. My bipolarity taunted me without a moment's relief: I watched passively as it blanketed my world.

Until, all in one moment, I told myself I'd had enough.

After I graduated, I couldn't take it anymore. For days, I stayed plastered in what felt like a terminal state of paralysis; a disease controlled—and threatened to destroy—me. I was infiltrated by symptoms of other mental illnesses at this point; my bipolar now co-occurred with a severe eating disorder. I don't know if it was the numbness, disinterest, or lack of remaining fight that had me convinced I was too weak to persevere; and this terrified me. It's not just fear that prevents help-seeking; it can take time—sometimes decades—to comprehend the physical, emotional, and behavioral implications of a one-or-two-word diagnosis. Fortunately, I was among the lucky ones who finally realized recovery was possible. I reached out to a friend who talked about therapy frequently, and I made an appointment with her therapist. I was quickly diagnosed with bipolar disorder and an eating disorder. I found comfort in putting a name to such an excruciating experience; it meant I could finally learn how to combat my symptoms.

I never realized how severe my eating disorder had become; it crept up as I tried to regain the control bipolar took from me. Soon after finding my first therapist, I was sent to an eating disorder specialist. My vitals were taken, and I was told I'd die if I continued down the path I was on. I'd come to prioritize my rigid routine over preserving and nurturing my very existence, powerless to diseases that thwarted any rational conception I had of myself.

My struggles with eating manifested in ways that seemed bizarre on the outside. I ordered two Starbucks drinks just to have one sip of what I really wanted, and trashed the drink I viewed as "rule breaking." That one sip would haunt me for days to follow. I also overexercised, and my knees soon suffered from the constant running. I ran through emotional anguish but soon found I couldn't run 10 miles a day forever; I had to choose my body.

After years of work, I recently hit a milestone: 50 pounds gained since beginning treatment. It was scary, but I was proud. The pounds clinging to me like a foreign body I once wished to abandon are years' worth of accomplishment; radical resistance to the greatest fear I know. What matters to me now is that the food on my plate tastes good, and that my heart still beats by the love that surrounds me.

As I became more comfortable with my diagnoses and my understanding of self, the news broke that Robin Williams had died by suicide. I decided to write a short Facebook post about the tragedy. It appeared to be a distant tribute to an amazing person but was truthfully a semi-conscious expression of what I was secretly battling. The post revealed the receptive nature of people in my life when dialogues about suicide and mental illness arise. I felt safer with my own story and, over the next few weeks, shared a series of increasingly revealing posts about my own battles. For the first time, I felt free. The inherent power in vulnerability, in facing the insecurities that flattened me, was suddenly a means to survival.

I had 1,500 friends on Facebook and very little attachment to them. After a cautious first approach, I made an intense series of proclamations, well on my way to total transparency. I received a message from a friend of a friend, who had seen my writing. She told me how it inspired her and that someday she hoped to find strength to share her own story. Quickly amassing dozens of similar messages, I was captivated by the support and encouragement I saw. I was told my writing helped thwart pain and suicidal thoughts. I shared photos that were the epitome of "no filter" and branded myself as the antithesis of social media normalcy; an approach to visibility that makes me both a "threat" and deeply human at the same time. It displays one instance of what the media calls "mentally unsound," because giving anything less than a smile can be poorly received after years of institutionalized bias. From a young age, we're told strength is to never reveal vulnerability, with no place for tears and laughter. Beneath it all, most of us are wired to act with compassion and empathy, even if these virtues get forgotten.

MY THERAPIST WAS PLEASED with my decision to speak out publicly but still felt I should go on medication. Growing up, no one spoke of psychiatric drugs and, in the absence of rational knowledge, I believed they were reserved for bad people; so at first, I adamantly resisted. I worried meds would steal both my depressive episodes and the few things I like about myself: my compassion and appreciation for the spaces of my world that still had light. Pill bottles sat on CVS shelves until it was apparent I wasn't coming for them.

As I came down from the high of public advocacy, the lows set in again. I realized medication might be necessary and challenged my discomfort by trying a pill called Pristiq. In just weeks, I started to become a pleasant emulsion of positive experience and the wisdom inherent to struggle. When I saw the effects of my meds, I stopped apologizing. I could laugh again and it wasn't fake. I conquered my list of "forbidden foods" and found that perhaps my worth was not contingent on my size or "discipline." In time I felt equipped to disregard invasive thoughts that told me I was worthless. On July 10 of this year, I will celebrate what I call my "Pristiq-i-versary," marking four years since I went on my SSNRIs. The decision sent me on an absolutely awe-inspiring trajectory toward survival—2014 was the year I "started living."

WE ARE PROGRAMMED TO THINK mental illness is only a can't-get-off-the-couch affliction. I contended with that mindset my whole adolescence, avoiding school by clinging to the headboard of my bed. Who I am now is a product of years of training. I've worked to get myself out of bed when it feels like I've been filled with hot cement, and to write when my mind is on fire or barren of thought. Despite severe depressive episodes, I am a very "high-functioning" bipolar person. This is what my life looks like: Even with the help of medication, my "invisible illness" leads me to overcommit constantly and makes me jittery and forgetful; sometimes I appear to be just another overachiever on too much coffee. But in moments of high stress, an intense crash will surely follow. I can run 15 miles but struggle to focus 45 seconds of my attention on an urgent email. On those 15 miles, I will run to my audiobook because I can't allow myself two "unplugged" hours. Busying myself is a solid defense mechanism for avoiding lows, so onward I go with failed attempts at leisure time. Grabbing a Pilot pen, I record everything I need to accomplish in the next 12 months to feel adequate. Naturally, I set myself up to fail. Being productive gives me a momentary high to ride until I crash or produce something else. When I am drained and come up short, I get down on myself and blame a lack of competence. Creativity is innate to some of the most tortured people; the late David Foster Wallace and Robin Williams erected timeless works from a fight they both shared.

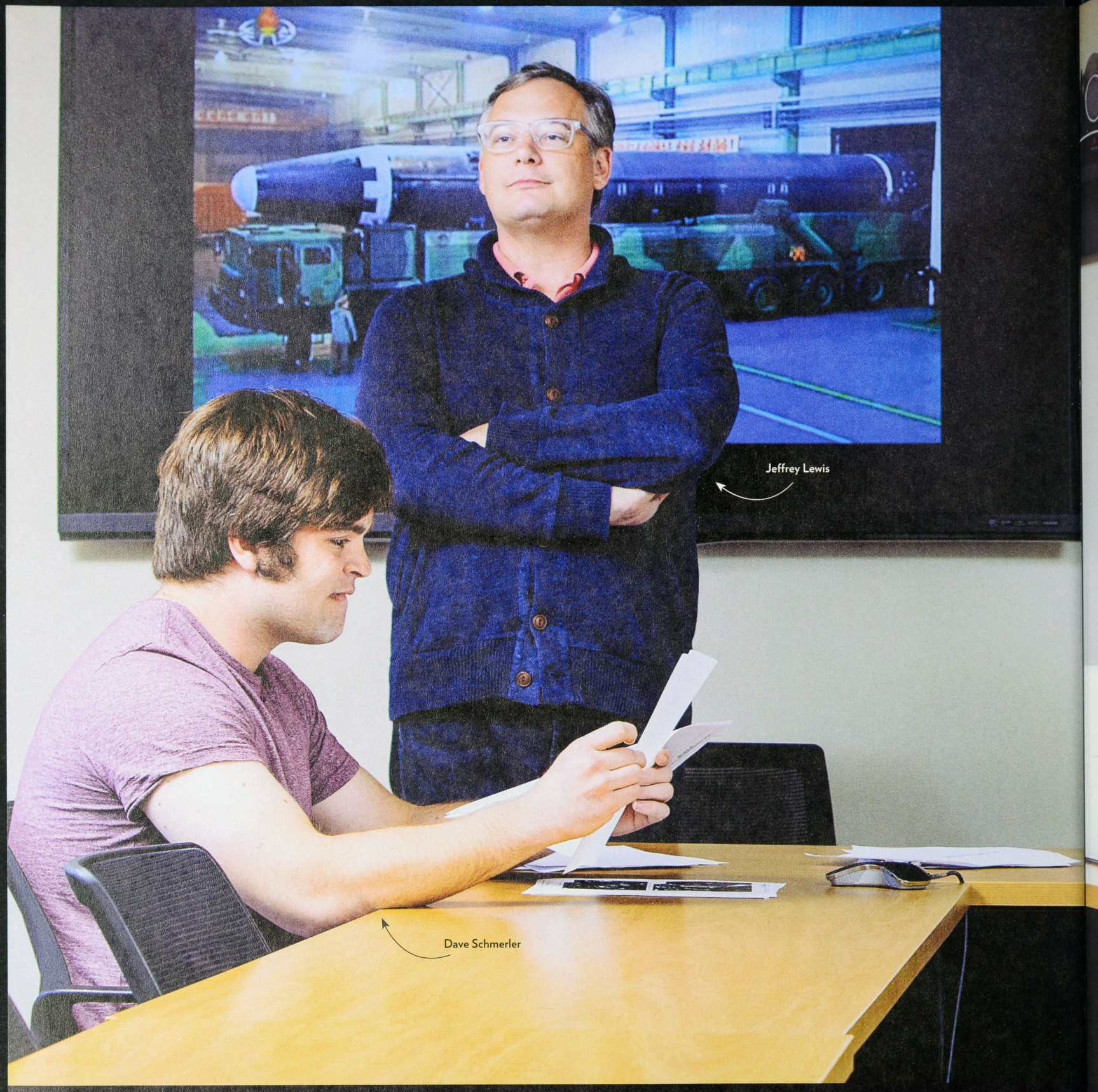
At times, I've let the disease have its silence back. Over the course of a week, I walked 74 miles and it still wasn't enough to release me from apathy's grip. Sometimes I am so volatile that my ears ache at the sound of a pin drop; the friction of a cotton shirt is enough to make me quake. I jump if I'm tapped on the shoulder, and I wake up shaking. My candor has given me power of influence and little regret, but sometimes I still spend 30 minutes spiraling, piling reason upon reason that I'm a burden. Sometimes indifference—the evil byproduct of sadness—runs after me until I let it in.

I write about the sweet taste of stability often, but it's only fair to reveal the full picture. It has taken me years to erect asylums that feel secure. I've written a road map for every circumstance—"how-to guides for avoiding isolation"—because I know where I go when things get hard. I'm armed with snacks, books, shoes, and music to conquer any mood, but some days reveal that nothing is infallible; not an orange bottle of pills, not me or my disaster plans. This, not just the highs, is what defines the sometimes-chaotic process of recovery. It is not a "quick fix," and healing is accepting that things may never fully change. Rather than pushing back on that reality, we must chug forward and divorce comfort for courage.

For me, life has become a quest to understand pain and why it exists. I am constantly impressed by the human capacity to reshape pain; to make something beautiful out of lost time. Life is about the good, the bad, and even the in-between, because it reminds us how much more we can feel. Mental illness will never let you have immunity, but it will strengthen the system within you that fights back. I smiled through everything for two decades until I finally realized that if someone really loves you, they'd rather have you in a heaping mess than not have you at all. They'll meet you at the door with eye drops if it's what you need. You don't owe it to anyone to be full on the outside if you're empty on the inside.

Of course I worry about unraveling again, and I know my transparency about it brings solace to my fellow sufferers who fear they could freefall back into darkness. In some way, we unite as we confront trepidation together. Mental illness lives in each of our worlds, however close in proximity. It lives among troubled kids with dysfunctional families from ailing towns, just as it does among girls from Connecticut with privileged families. I wonder from time to time how I became twisted in its grip; why the flashing lights and unfamiliar faces, the cold sterile walls and monitors, the leather chairs, and gray skies.

The difference now is that I wouldn't change it, for it has elevated me to a place I never knew existed. M




# True Detectives

**On California's magnificent Central Coast, a group of North Korea experts track Pyongyang's every nuclear move. But—if we're listening—the story they're telling us is also about ourselves.** By Zach Dorfman Photographs by Elëna Zhukova

THE TREACLY MARTIAL MUSIC PLAYS in the background while Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader—the third Kim to rule his country, the world's only hereditary Stalinist dictatorship—looks out on water. He is on a boat, bobbing up and down, dressed in a black peacoat and wide-brimmed hat. The mountains behind the sea are lavender; the sky is faded rose gold. It is dawn, or dusk, or nearly either. Suddenly, a missile pierces the choppy water. As it shoots upward, it looks like a warped sunrise, the engine's blast reflecting over the surface of the water. It surges toward the cloud line, slices it, and rises toward the darkness.

The narrator on KCTV, North Korea's official television network, is rapt. The test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile, or SLBM, appears to be a success. The launch is shown from multiple perspectives. Kim Jong-un smiles for the camera.

But here's the thing: the test was a composite. It was doctored. A fake. And we know this not thanks to the U.S. government or its allies; or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); or the United Nations; but because of the keen detective work of the researchers and analysts in the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at Middlebury's Institute for International Studies at Monterey (MIIS).

This group—led by Jeffrey Lewis, the program's director—knows more about North Korea's nuclear weapons program than almost anyone on this planet not currently working for a government agency. "Time and time again, the reason why people tell me that CNS is the 'dream team' for North Korea analysis is that we have people with skills across the board here that we brought together," says Andrea Berger, a London-based CNS analyst who specializes in illicit finance networks. "That has resulted, I think, in some really special research."

Berger's estimation is widely shared across the nonproliferation community. "No group has influenced the public discourse on North Korea's nuclear weapons program and progress more than Jeffrey Lewis and his colleagues," says Vipin Narang, an associate professor of political science at MIT and prominent nuclear-weapons expert. "They figured out how to put all the pieces together with readily available tools, like nuclear detectives. Knowing the launch location for a test or one that failed used to be the monopoly of intelligences agencies. They single-handedly broke that monopoly."

Lewis and company, moreover, helped revolutionize their field while possessing only a fraction of the tools available to the world's spy services and an iota of these organizations' human capital. The entire North Korea team at CNS consists of fewer than 10 experts. (This number excludes CNS's graduate students, who provide key research support. I met one typically atypical student, Grace Liu, down in Monterey. When Liu, who is fluent in Chinese and Korean, isn't engaging in geospatial analysis at CNS, she is a military intelligence officer in the National Guard, overseeing a unit of nearly 300 soldiers.) The CNS teams have no special access or trove of classified data from which to draw. They use entirely open-source methods—commercial satellite imagery, North Korean propaganda videos and photos, social media, business records, and other tools—for their work.

"LOOK AT THE SHAPE OF THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND THE MISSILE," says Melissa Hanham, a senior research associate at CNS, as she points to her computer screen. We're watching footage from the aforementioned submarine-launched missile test. I am in Hanham's office in Monterey on a sunny, cool February day. It's a neat space—most certainly by academic standards—and I find the books and papers that threaten to encroach on this order a comfort in their own right. There's a framed North Korean propaganda poster on the wall, covered in sticky notes, with phrases like "Syria Chem" and "Ship Tracking" and "Pyongyang Biotech Institute" on them, reminders that now threaten to obscure this particular Socialist realist paean to the working man.

On another wall is a small, framed poster containing a tiny mounted piece of wire from the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, which buffers the border between the two Koreas. (The DMZ is the product of the 1953 armistice that concluded the Korean War; a formal peace treaty between the two Koreas was never signed, meaning they are still technically at war.) When I first walk into Hanham's office, there's Shoegaze or Dream Pop wafting through her computer speakers. It's a disarmingly pleasant place to tackle one of the world's most exigent security problems.

The East Asia nonproliferation team broke down this particular SLBM test in stages. First, says Hanham, one of her colleagues, Dave Schmerler, geolocated the mountains in the video from the missile test, using Google Earth to identify from above what the regime gave the

rest of the world a glimpse of from below. Now CNS's researchers had a pretty good idea of where the test took place. Schmerler—who is by his own colleagues' lights a savant among savants—also happened to remember that he had seen some of the exact same footage (the part where the missile pierces the cloud line), during a 2014 North Korean Scud missile test. Had the North Koreans spliced footage from two separate tests together? Something, they knew, was off.

Another CNS colleague, Catherine Dill, separated the three clips of the missile launch (North Korea showed what appeared to be three separate shots of the same test), which allowed them to be played together, side-by-side. In order to compare these clips, she sped up or slowed down each frame to make sure they were advancing at the same pace, because the North Koreans had tweaked the speed of the videos. Dill discovered that one of the clips was a cropped and flipped version of another—in other words, these were the same shot, from the same camera, edited to appear as different. (North Korea is often "selectively transparent" about its nuclear program, says Joshua Pollack, a Washington-based CNS analyst, and open-source researchers can learn a lot more than might be expected from a country often described, inappropriately in his view, as a "hermit kingdom.")

The founding publisher of the cheeky, yet deadly serious blog and podcast Arms Control Wonk, Jeffrey Lewis is not your archetypal academic.

One of these three clips had more *total* frames of video than the two others did. What Hanham noticed was that, in the last few slowed-down seconds of the longest video, the entire missile becomes engulfed in flames. If you look closely enough, you can even see little chunks flying off the missile as it explodes after launch. "The video editor who put together this propaganda just left too many frames in," says Hanham.

Still, says Hanham, to be sure that the North Korean test deviated from what a successful one would look like, they needed to compare it with the launch of a similar submarine-launched missile. Hanham and her colleagues believed that the North Korean missile was based on an older Soviet model. So they found an old Soviet test video and juxtaposed

"Nuclear war is the most awful thing that humans have ever done and ever will do," Hanham says. "In the event of a nuclear exchange between the U.S. and North Korea, yes, hundreds of thousands of people will die."

the two, sizing both videos to scale. In both, the missiles burst from the water, vapor spewing forth. But there was no hint of an explosion in the Soviet test. The North Korean test, they now concluded, was a failure.

This is serious work, and Hanham is a serious and engaged person, given to introspection. But her measured demeanor is complemented by a delightfully dry, cutting, sardonic sense of humor. She is sharp-witted and often quick to laugh.

Jeffrey Lewis, CNS's East Asia program director, soon walks into Hanham's office. There's a certain kind of academic archetype—aggressively unobtrusive, ivory-towerish, almost ecclesiastical—familiar to almost everyone who has spent time on a university campus. This is not Lewis. Brash, bespectacled, and puckish, Lewis commands a casually encyclopedic knowledge of nonproliferation issues. In another life he could have been a contrarian record-store owner, a character from the pages of *High Fidelity*. He is also, not infrequently, hilarious. I like him immediately.

Lewis has just returned from Germany, where he attended the Munich Security Conference, a gathering of the world's elite political, military, and academic national security professionals. But Lewis is more excited about a conversation he had in Germany with executives from Airbus, who have agreed to provide Lewis and the team with some new commercial satellite imagery. (The cost of such imagery—which CNS sometimes purchases but more frequently cajoles from private organizations, Lewis says—is exorbitant in its own right; and in any case, the images available to CNS are not *quite* as advanced as what, say, the National Reconnaissance Service provides the rest of the U.S. intelligence community.)

"Is there any newsworthy stuff in the new satellite data?" I ask.

"Oh, *hell* yeah," say Hanham.

"We *shit* newsworthy," jokes Lewis.

I tell them I'm putting this exchange in the story; then clarify that I'm jesting.

"I'd be delighted if you did," says Lewis.

Reader, I included it.

(In all seriousness: Lewis and his team are prolific contributors in the public debate surrounding North Korea's nuclear program. Their writing is featured frequently in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Foreign Affairs*, and they've appeared on *PBS NewsHour*, *NBC Nightly News*, and *Vice News Tonight*, among many other programs. "Lewis in particular has managed to make nuclear nerding cool again—actually, maybe for the first time—with his witty and accessible yet super-informative columns, which are the envy of the broader community, I can assure you," says Narang, the MIT-based nuclear-weapons expert. The CNS crew also features prominently on Twitter, with Lewis, @armscontrolwonk, and Hanham, @mhanham, often responding to nonproliferation-related events with lightning speed.)

Dave Schmerler also walks into the office around this time. Schmerler, a research associate at CNS since 2015, was before then a graduate student at MIIS—both Lewis and Hanham were once his instructors—and he is the most introverted of the group, a relative term, to be sure. (Lewis and Hanham have worked together since 2011.) His diffidence may be rooted in deference; but Schmerler also gives the impression of a man whose internal wheels are always spinning, of a happy obsessive.

"Dave is a well-known 3-D modeling guru," says Hanham—Schmerler, looking on, is clearly uncomfortable with self-promotion—"and when he was a student, he took to it like a duck to water. I've never seen anything like it. It's funny, he actually flutters his eyes, and you can see him imagining himself standing in a particular place. He enters the matrix or something."

When I ask Lewis, Hanham, and Schmerler about their intellectual and personal paths—how, in other words, they decided to focus professionally on nonproliferation issues—Lewis needles me a bit. "Such a nice way of saying we're weirdos," he deadpans. "How did you become a pervy weirdo, Dave?"

Schmerler doesn't miss a beat.

"I was born this way," he says. Everybody laughs.

Well, yes, but raw talent only gets one so far. And Schmerler's laid-back mien belies his (and Hanham's and Lewis's) ardent, and perhaps consuming, devotion to their work. For instance, Schmerler tells me that, when he was a graduate student, he would go home every night after work and school and watch North Korean missile propaganda videos, sometimes for hours. And this regime has given Schmerler some unique skills. "I'll take pride in my recall," he says. "I've seen a photo or video of every publicly available North Korean missile test. If you show me a picture online and I haven't seen it, it's come out 10 seconds ago, or it's fake."

"No one is ever going to come out of this group normal," says Hanham, wryly. We all laugh, again.

Humor is a powerful antidote—a necessary redistribution of psychic energies—to Hanham and her colleagues' work, which broaches the unthinkable. It also reveals the deeply moral core of their work.

I ask Hanham how she copes with the enormity of the subject to which she has devoted her life. She pauses. "Nuclear war is the most awful thing that humans have ever done and ever will do," she says. "In the event of a nuclear exchange between the U.S. and North Korea, yes, hundreds of thousands of people will die; and yes, some of them will be American. Yes, economies will crash. It will be the apocalypse that people hide under their desks for. So the whole ballgame is not having it in the first place."

Lewis nods. It's a "real problem," he says, to get people to understand the consequences of nuclear weapons. Even among experts, says Lewis, "there is a kind of tacit agreement among people to pretend that these things are not as terrible as they are." Perhaps this is a coping mechanism, or some sort of amoral (or frankly immoral) attempt at dissociation. "You can't participate in policy discussions of nuclear weapons and be honest about what it is that nuclear weapons do to human beings. All of the bullshit we say about them collapses when it confronts the actual

Melissa Hanham was in Seoul when North Korea tested its first nuclear device in 2006. Her intense research into the regime began then—and hasn't stopped.

consequences of the action. It's easy to talk about deterrence and compellence. It's much harder to talk about incinerating people's children in order to make them do something."

In 2006, Hanham happened to be interning in Seoul for the International Crisis Group (ICG) when North Korea tested its first nuclear device; the experience of actually witnessing a nuclear-weapons test in relative proximity undoubtedly influenced her approach to her work. (North Korea's recent intercontinental ballistic missile tests showed it to be capable of striking the American mainland; for many years prior, however, North American analysts did not really consider themselves in personal nuclear danger. South Korean and Japanese nonproliferation experts, however, have long worked under other assumptions.)

In the days that followed the test, Hanham pieced together information in order to determine whether the North Korea device was fissile or not—which would tell policy makers and experts just how advanced Pyongyang's nascent program was. Hanham later returned to ICG as a full-time employee, working with the organization in Beijing during one of the rounds of six-party talks held there to discuss Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Her focus on North Korea was, perhaps, "happenstance," she says, though she knew from early in her career that she wanted to work on areas of conflict in international politics. And—no doubt partly because both her parents are trained PhDs in the hard sciences—she intuited that her work would receive wider purchase if it were rooted in her own quantifiable or measurable research.

"I was really young when the 2003 Iraq War started," she recalls, "and I remember feeling like I wasn't smart enough to know, that I didn't have the privilege of discussing, whether it should happen or not. But I was sure that it didn't feel right. And one of the things I can contribute to the North Korea debate is research-based data that can help the public make better policy decisions together, in a transparent kind of way."

At CNS, Hanham began to use Google Earth—there was no budget at the time for commercial satellite imagery—to identify telltale signs of North Korea's missile program. On her first real try using the program ("I thought it was magic"), she identified a missile on a launchpad near Musudan-ri, a major testing facility. She started using Google Earth in so many different, complex ways that she found herself attending outreach conferences for the program. In a few years, she went from teaching herself how to analyze satellite imagery (Hanham says that almost everyone in this area is self-taught, with the exception of intelligence community analysts) to formally instructing students at MIIS on the subject.

Lewis's intellectual journey was also somewhat circuitous. He studied philosophy as an undergraduate at Augustana College with a focus on epistemology, the branch of philosophy focused on the nature of knowledge—how we know what we know. Lewis says that, when he concluded he didn't want to become an academic philosopher, he still hungered for work devoted to one of the Big Questions. And, at the time, nuclear weapons seemed like the Biggest Question of them all.

So, as young, ambitious, aspiring policy wonks are wont to do, he moved to Washington. He became immersed in a world where the subjects of missile defense, nonproliferation, and nuclear weapons were a matter of intense debate, and expertise conferred a kind of social currency. It was an "addictive" experience because, Lewis says, "once you know a little about the topic, you know a magnitude more than almost everyone else in the room, because most people don't understand the technology at all. And then you are constantly getting invited to better meetings than you would otherwise."

"Dave is a well-known 3-D modeling guru," says Schmerler's colleague Melissa Hanham. "I've never seen anything like it."

But philosophy has a way of getting in one's bloodstream. "The epistemologist in me loves this work," says Lewis, "because the question is: 'How do you know what nuclear and missile systems a certain country has? It's supposed to be secret.' And I'm like, 'Yeah! That's what makes it so interesting!' If you look at a missile and say, 'Let's count every exhaust

port on that'—that would be really tedious unless you understood very clearly in your head the problem you were going to solve. North Korea wants us to see some things about their program, but not other things. What has propelled me is the fact that this is just a giant epistemological problem; that this is the world's most interesting applied epistemology problem. North Korea parades a missile on a street: Is it real? That's a *way* more interesting question than anything Kant ever said."

At this, Schmerler cracks up. Hanham flashes Lewis a sidelong glance, and lets out an audible "*Oooooooo*"; Lewis is, after all, (playfully) rubbishing one of the Enlightenment's greatest minds. I tell Lewis that I, too, was a philosophy undergraduate student, and that my department was explicitly Kantian. We all laugh again.

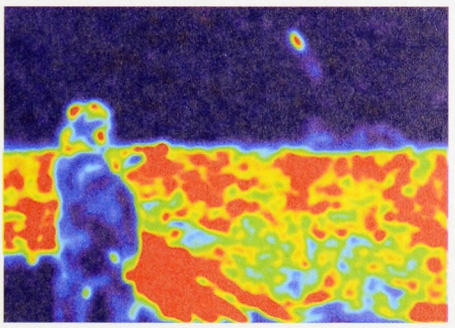
There's something addicting about this approach, Lewis says. I can understand why. It shares many features with investigative journalism: the focus on empirical verifiability; the hunt for covert facts; the sublime, almost ecstatic sense of holding in one's hands a new, revelatory piece of data that you have been entrusted to share with others. "The best feeling in the world is knowing something no one else does," says Lewis. "It's thrilling. Once you see the world that way, you can't go back."

Lewis gives a recent example of his team's detective, or investigative, work. For many years, he says, there was informed speculation that North Korea's first missile was a Scud—a tactical ballistic missile of Soviet origin—provided to it by Egypt. This was a controversial claim among North Korea nonproliferation experts, but Lewis and his team believed it to be true. But there was never hard proof one way or another.

A few months ago, however, Schmerler was looking at a new cache of historical images North Korea had released documenting its missile program. Schmerler realized that he was viewing a new image, likely never before seen outside of North Korea itself. "We looked at it really closely," says Lewis, "and it's Kim Jong-il"—Kim Jong-un's father, who ruled North Korea from 1994 until his death in 2011—"looking at a brown Scud, with Soviet markings on it that are specific for export models, with the year painted on it that the missile was exported to Egypt." They had likely identified the first picture of North Korea's first Scud. "It's that feeling of *knowing* that I love," says Lewis.

This focus on empirical verifiability, of approaching nonproliferation questions from the perspective of applied epistemology, seems to be imprinted into MIIS's institutional DNA. While visiting Monterey, I also spoke with Bill Potter, CNS's founding director, in his large, bright office down the hall from Hanham's. Potter's office is a monument to the life of the mind. There are stacks (and stacks, and stacks) of paper everywhere: on desks and tables, on piles on the floor, collated and filed and loose and overflowing, decades of study and intellectual engagement laid bare and made tangible. Framed photos of Potter with some of the nonproliferation world's most prominent experts, like Yukiya Amano, the current director of the IAEA, line his office walls.

Potter, an expert on Russian nonproliferation issues, is kindly and



FORENSIC SLEUTHING

In a photo released by North Korea, Kim Jong-un oversees a test of a submarine launched ballistic missile.

Using photoforensic software, CNS determines that light waves seen below the missile do not match up with the bright light source of the missile's exhaust, calling into question the images authenticity.

Further analysis detects another suspicious anomaly in the image, this time appearing around the missile itself.

voluble, his enthusiasm for his work, his pride in his colleagues, manifest. When he founded CNS in 1989, Potter says, there was almost no systematic open-source research on nonproliferation issues. At the time, Potter was researching international nuclear commerce. But, he recalls, when he'd query colleagues working at the National Labs (which are responsible for the maintenance of the country's nuclear arsenal) about related issues, they were unable to answer basic questions on the topic.

Government officials were missing "tremendous" amounts of information out there, says Potter, because it wasn't top secret. But the information was available—if you knew where to look. Esoteric trade publications were tracking nuclear commerce, and they provided valuable data on the dissemination of related technologies. "I realized there was no correlation between that which was classified and that which was important or accurate," he recalls, smiling.

Someone needed to assemble, collate, and analyze all this data. So he took his proposal to the State Department. They thought it was a "brilliant" idea, he says, but too costly. Potter decided to undertake the task himself. He bought an expensive (at the time!) piece of $400 computer software and hired three researchers and one computer programmer to work on the project. Together, they created the Emerging Nuclear Suppliers Database.

Within a few years, they were marketing the database to the U.S. gov-

## They had likely identified the first picture of North Korea's first Scud. "It's that feeling of *knowing* that I love," says Lewis.

ernment and IAEA. Using this developing trove of open-source trade data, Potter and his colleagues identified technical components of Iraq's and Libya's nuclear programs—sometimes before the United Nations or U.S. government did, at least publicly; and outlined many details of the A. Q. Khan proliferation network. (Khan, the godfather of Pakistan's nuclear program, is considered responsible for heading an illicit network that sold nuclear technology to Iran, North Korea, and Libya.) "The work we are doing today with new tools and technologies"—like those employed by Lewis and his team—"is an extension of what we did at the beginning, when the center was created," observes Potter.

THIS RESEARCH-INTENSIVE APPROACH BEARS MANY SCHOLARLY FRUITS, but it also fulfills an important public-service function. Today, much of the debate about North Korea takes place behind closed doors, within the confines of official, top-secret Washington. But because Lewis and his team track North Korea's program so closely, they are not shy about sharing their judgments about Pyongyang's capabilities. "We're definitely not naïve about North Korea and what they do in their propaganda, but we try to base our conclusions on what we're seeing. And there are times when we come up with dramatically different analysis than is featured in some places," says Lewis.

Some of these quibbles are seemingly mechanical in nature—"aesthetic decisions masquerading as technical ones," as Hanham puts is—a way for Western nonproliferation journalists, policy wonks, and academics to discount North Korea's nuclear program by pointing to an element of its missiles' design that deviates from U.S. or Russian weapons. The CNS team believes this is wishful thinking. The evidence of North Korea's capabilities is crystal clear, they say.

Indeed, says Lewis, there is a disquieting unreality to the contemporary conversation around North Korea in U.S. policy-making and media circles. For example, many prominent North Korea watchers presume that North Korea *can't* do something, and then argue from that presupposition without acknowledging it. "There are a lot of North Korea researchers who believe that it is just not possible for Pyongyang to have a very good missile system," says Hanham. These researchers then look for a foreign origin for a missile part, instead of investigating whether and how North Korea might have built it themselves.

The debate around North Korea is so skewed, say Lewis, Hanham, and Schmerler, it is almost pathological. Lewis chalks up much of it to racism. "It's not just that people are racist because it's enjoyable," says Lewis. "People get a psychic payoff of a feeling of superiority. And they freak out when that is threatened. This is how white supremacy functions."

Hanham agrees. "I think for years, and perhaps for decades, we've desired to categorize North Korea as backwards or poor," she says. "And they've been steadily working on technology that's increasingly accessible to all countries and nonstate actors. They've been very successful at marshaling their limited resources exactly into those programs. And they're never going to roll back those programs without an enormous change in the way we interact with them. So we have a new nuclear neighbor." (North Korea views its missile program as a hedge against a U.S. attack, say Lewis and Hanham—one that guarantees its existence, especially after watching the U.S. depose Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.)

In fact, says Schmerler, every time North Korea displays its nuclear capabilities, some U.S. analysts "move the goalposts" to question their ability to hit the American mainland. Of this capacity, the CNS team has no doubt. "People think that because North Korea doesn't know how to build a missile the 'right' way, they must not know how to do it at all," says Hanham, with evident frustration. "Our white supremacist analysts will laugh right into a fiery death—'*Hahahaha*, your missile is not as good as mine!' So what if it just hits Palo Alto instead of San Francisco because they have a 'terrible, wimpy' missile?"

If the larger domestic conversation about North Korea's weapons program is "absurd," as Lewis says, what, in fact, are U.S. politicians, policy makers, and journalists actually talking about? For all the ink spilled, all the policy papers disseminated, all the talking points regurgitated, what is being debated? And why, given these facts about North Korea's nuclear capabilities, is there spurious debate instead of something approaching a settled (though unsettling) consensus?

I came to Monterey to write about nonproliferation experts and North Korea. But that's only one aspect of this tale; and, in the long run, it may not even be the most salient one. Lewis and his team have spent their professional lives studying one of the world's most repressive and loathsome regimes; but they have also spent years watching the American body politic watch that regime.

"The entire structure of the domestic debate—it's not as much a story about North Korea, I think, as much as it is a story about ourselves, and how we see ourselves, and how we see our place in the world," says Lewis. "And the reason we're so angry about what the North Koreans are doing is not because their nuclear weapons hold at risk New York, but because they hold at risk all the myths we've built up about our superiority and dominance over the last 70 years. The kind of existential threat is to our self-image. And that's the hardest thing for us to take."

I thought about this for a long time: after our lunch at a cantina in downtown Monterey, where we had a boisterous meal together, our conversation bouncing off the restaurant's cavernous walls; while we walked back to MIIS's offices, where the team debated, vociferously and enthusiastically, what a new structure, which the team had identified via satellite imagery, revealed about a potential Chinese military base; and on the tortuous drive back to San Francisco, north through Sand City, where giant dunes shield the nearby towns from the vicissitudes of the Pacific. The dunes are a protective comfort, if ultimately an illusory one. I think I prefer an unobstructed, if sometimes chillier, view. I imagine that Lewis and his team do, too. M

# Class Acts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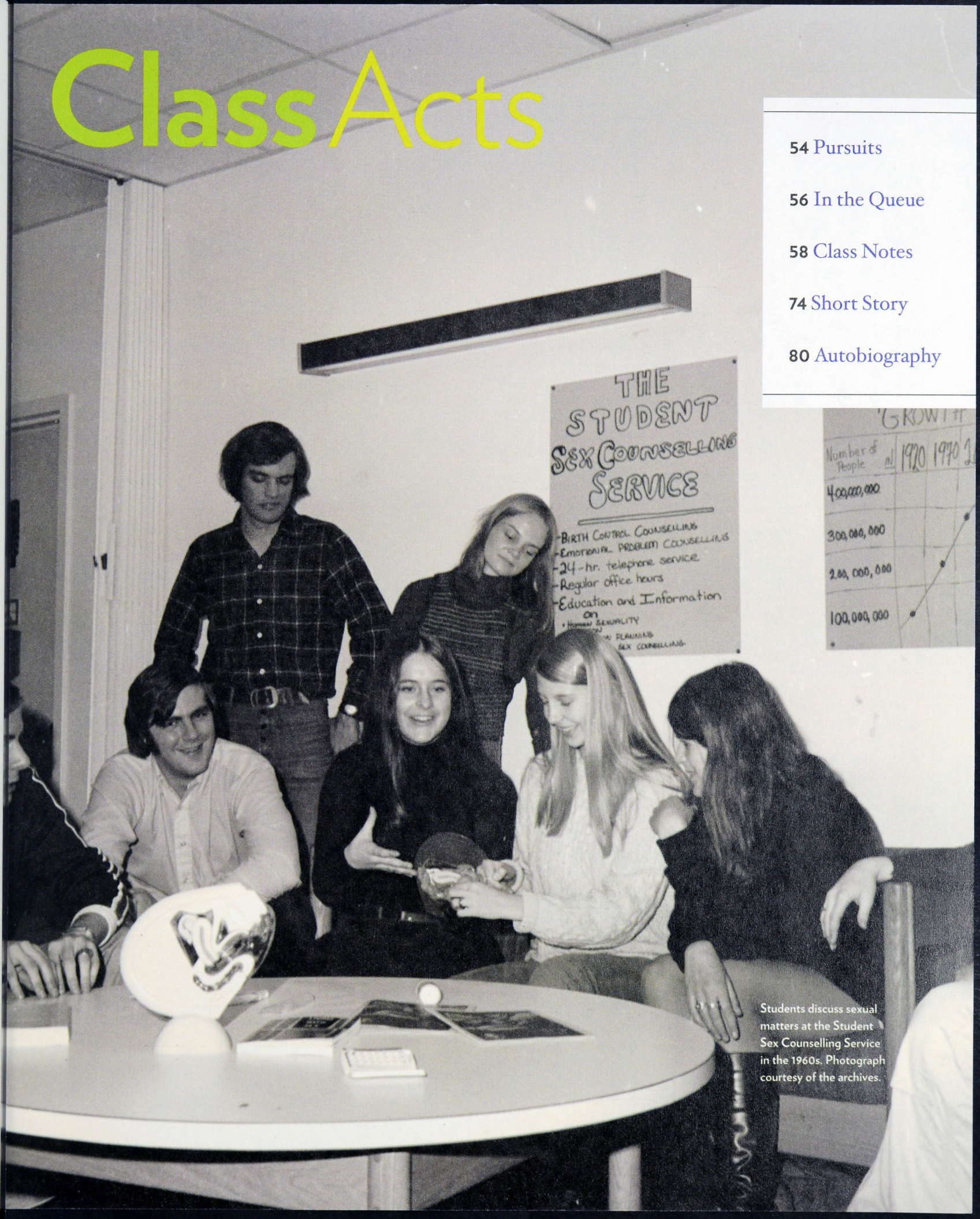



Students discuss sexual matters at the Student Sex Counselling Service in the 1960s. Photograph courtesy of the archives.

By Jessica Voelker '00

# The Mapmaker

One afternoon last fall, Marty Schnure '10.5 received a call from a colleague at the Wilderness Society, the nation-spanning conservation nonprofit where she heads up cartographic design. "Senator Cantwell needs some maps," Schnure's D.C.-based teammate explained. "Can we support this?" The Washington State senator was battling a budgetary proposal that sought to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—19,286,722 acres of protected land in northeastern Alaska—to drilling. "Around the clock, our government relations team in D.C. was supporting Senator Cantwell closely on strategy," recalls Schnure. "I was in Seattle making maps, and our conservation and ecology team in Alaska was helping me find the data, distill a complex story into a simple one, and fact-check everything. It was some of the most rewarding work I've ever done."

That's saying something. Less than eight years into her career, the Massachusetts-raised mapmaker has already blazed through some major career milestones. Graduating in the height of the recession, she nonetheless nabbed a dream gig at National Geographic in Washington, D.C. There, in cubicle neighbor Ross Donihue, she discovered a collaborator who shared her passion for conservation and outdoor escapades; the two forged a romance and, in 2013, fled the cubes to create their own company, Maps for Good. Their biggest accomplishment to date: charting an area of Patagonia wilderness that led to a national park designation, a major victory for an operation that sent the young cartographers bushwhacking through dense South American foliage, forging icy streams, and crunching their way across endless fields of scree. "I've become fairly good at being uncomfortable," says Schnure, whose panoramic images of the expedition showcase her considerable photographic talents. "Whether that's tired, or cold, or hungry, or all those things." This ability to sit with discomfort and uncertainty, she says, has helped her embrace the inevitable ups and downs of entrepreneurship—and also, love. While her relationship with Donihue is no longer romantic, the two continue to partner on the projects that fuel their mutual passions.

But Schnure says she wasn't born a (literal) trailblazer. "I remember first learning to drive, looking at road maps and thinking, I don't even know how to read this," she says. "I was intimidated by maps." She came to cartography at Middlebury. "It was an intersection of art and design, science and technology, and, in my particular case, a very applied conservation need." As Schnure's affection for the outdoors blossomed in the Vermont wilderness, the link between mapmaking and saving untapped expanses became obvious. "We only save what we love," she explains. "And we only love what we know. If I can make something known with a map that helps somebody to come to know and love a place, they might be inspired to help protect it."

As for the Arctic Refuge, the work continues. In March, the Wilderness Society reported that the Trump administration sought an "aggressive timeline" to explore oil and gas opportunities in the area. Meanwhile, threats to public lands pile up rapidly yet rarely make it into the scandal-stuffed news cycle. "It's easy for me to feel like the sky is falling, and I need to put in everything I possibly can," says Schnure. Her more seasoned colleagues urge her to take breaks to avoid burnout—a real challenge for a person of such startling focus and drive. "When I look at it, the future of conservation depends upon people, especially young people, having really positive formative experiences in the outdoors," she explains. "I feel a strong responsibility to protect these places that have given me so much." M

*Jessica Voelker is a writer who works for the Seattle-based culinary tech company ChefSteps.*

PARALLELS

**WAY FINDER**

Schnure was very close with her maternal grandparents. "They were hardy, gentle, loving outdoorspeople, who taught us how to camp, paddle a canoe, sail a boat, and build a campfire. They gave me this compass, which had served them well for years, on my high school graduation day, both as a practical tool for a young outdoorswoman and as a symbol for helping me find my way into adulthood."

**SUCCESS STORY**

"When I see this map, which is now marked up with edits for our upcoming second edition, I am flooded with the wild and expansive feeling of being there, standing in the wind on a mountainside in the Jeinemeni Range, looking out over the Chacabuco Valley," Schnure says. She feels immense warmth, fondness, and pride for all the people who worked so hard to make it into a national park, a designation it received this past January.

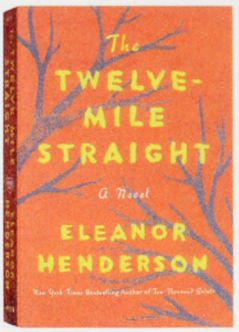
**TRUSTY COMPANION**

For as long as she can remember, Schnure has been driven to document the places she goes, the people she loves, and the things that happen to her. "Photography for me is like keeping a journal; it's the primary way that I store my sensory memories and share them with others. This camera comes with me everywhere and has stood up to quite a beating. I've taken it down the Colorado River twice and dropped it on a lot of rocks and mud in Patagonia. It has even been drenched by a few ocean waves. It's very tough—and loyal."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN VALLS

BOOK REVIEW

# Southern Exposure




Two young women do what they must to survive in 1930s Georgia.

By Sara Thurber Marshall

The drama that unfolds in the first few pages of *The Twelve-Mile Straight*, the newest novel from Eleanor Henderson '01, lays the groundwork for an epic, riveting story about life in the Deep South of 1930: a young woman gives birth to twins—a girl who is "pink as a piglet" and a boy who is "brown"—and a black man is lynched and dragged behind a truck down the road known as the Twelve-Mile Straight. The events that follow delve into racial injustice, gender inequality, and class divide, topics that are as timely today as they were then.

Eighteen-year-old Elma Jesup is the mother of the twins, or so we are led to believe. But we learn that this is just one of the many lies and secrets that abound in the Jesup household, whose members include Elma's father, Juke, a sharecropper, and Nan, their young black housekeeper. Juke, for reasons of his own, declares that the twins come from two fathers—Elma's white fiancé, Freddie Wilson, and Genus Jackson, a black hired hand on the farm her father sharecrops, who Juke claims raped his daughter. This accusation leads to Juke and Freddie lynching Genus, and the reverberations from the birth and the death drive the narrative to the very end.

Henderson has created characters whose vivid backstories give them complexity and definition. The two girls, Elma and Nan, who live like sisters within the world on the farm, struggle in their hardscrabble life against a dominant white man's world and the endless demands of poverty. Juke, though a white man, is clearly drawn as the pawn of the more powerful white man who owns the farm, and he finds his own power in running a lucrative, illegal gin distillery and clinging to the prerogatives of his race and gender. The interactions between men and women, rich and poor, black and white offer a mesmerizing and disturbing portrait

ILLUSTRATION BY MELINDA BECK

of life during the era of the Depression and Prohibition in Jim Crow South.

Henderson's childhood was filled with stories of her father's upbringing as the son of sharecroppers in southern Georgia in the 1930s. Fascinated, she wanted to recreate what seemed like the innocent rural community but also to fracture it to expose the darker currents she knew ran through it. She has done so convincingly, with descriptions in beautifully written prose that stand starkly next to the dark, unsettling events that are part of life along the Twelve-Mile Straight. M

EXCERPT

*Elma sat up on her own, clawing at the floor on her way up. She said to Juke, "You ain't never laid a hand on me."*

*"I still ain't. I kicked a chair over's all. Ain't a man allowed some anger?"*

*"You ain't never done me harm. But you been bringing harm to Nan."*

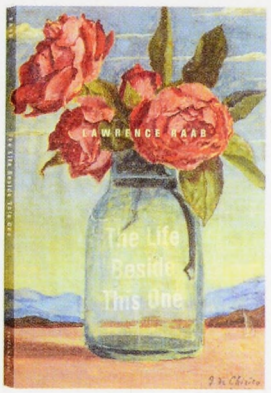
*Nan still crouched behind Elma, cradling the babies to her chest. Juke kept his eyes from her.*

*"I'll do it," Elma said. "I'll be momma to him. But you ain't to lay a hand on Nan."*

*Juke stopped his chewing. "I ain't never hit her neither."*

*"You done worse! You ain't to even look at her. You ain't to touch her. If I see you near her room, I'll run straight to George Wilson and tell him you the daddy. I'll tell the sheriff. Anyone who'll listen. Then you'll be on the bread line if you ain't on the chain gang. You hearing?"*

*If Juke had been looking at Nan, he would see that her eyes were bright with fear and hope. She too was waiting for his reply. But he was looking at Elma. Elma may have been made in his own image but she was her momma through and through. She could spit the same fire. And all he could do was stand back in admiration.*



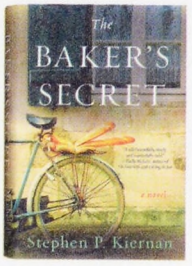

# Trust What Is Hidden

By John Plant '67

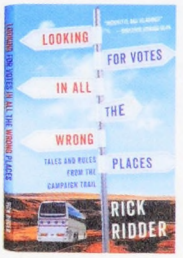
Getting lost, the need to save or to be saved, what we feel and what we (or others) think we should be feeling, the advent of death, our shifting relationship to the past, ghosts—these are a few of the motifs deftly interwoven into the texture of *The Life Beside This One*, the dazzling and haunting new collection of poems by Lawrence Raab '68. An essential part of Raab's design is the ease with which we enter each poem, only to find our assumptions and expectations transformed and overturned. The uncanny and the ordinary cast reflections off each other, to the enhancement of both: *"World without end, enough to get by."* Often the very last line of a poem contains a sudden reversal, a dizzying shift in perspective that opens up an unsuspected realm of possibility, sometimes exhilarating, sometimes terrifying, sometimes hilarious—and sometimes all three.

The unobtrusive formal beauty of each poem, as well as that of the shape of the book as a whole, makes musical analogies particularly tempting. It is appropriate, then, as we approach the book's final pages, to find "The Variations," a poem built around Glenn Gould's performance of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, which many of the book's themes subtly mirror. Raab, a two-time finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry, has given us here his finest book to date. These poems attune our sensitivity to the delicate complexities, perplexities, and wonders of our existence, with poignancy, humor, and an unerring voice that invites our trust. M

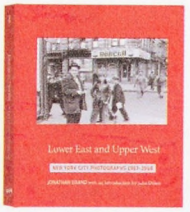
EDITORS' PICKS



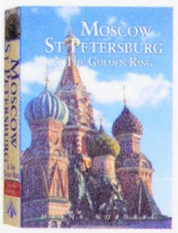

**STEPHEN P. KIERNAN**
**The Baker's Secret**
In this moving novel, Stephen Kiernan '82 tells the story of a courageous young woman living in an occupied Normandy village during WWII.




**RICK RIDDER**
**Looking for Votes in All the Wrong Places**
Political strategist Rick Ridder '76, who has been at the center of some of America's most epic political battles, shares entertaining and mostly true stories from his experiences.




**JONATHAN BRAND**
**Lower East and Upper West**
The lively, artistic, and often poignant photographs Jonathan Brand '55 took between 1957 and 1968 capture candid slices of everyday life in New York City.




**MASHA NORDBYE**
**Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the Golden Ring**
Masha Nordbye '78 has compiled a comprehensive guidebook to Russia's most famous cities and the beautiful countryside and ancient towns around them.

# ClassActs

***Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)***
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If anyone in the Classes of 1935, 1936, 1937, or 1938 would like to share news with the Middlebury community, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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I wish my classmates all the best.
*—Class Correspondent: A. Roger Clarke (arogerclarke@aol.com), 7 Rundel Park, Rochester, NY 14607.*

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to one of us.
*—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Wolfington Hubbard-Ovens, 22 Inverness Dr., Apt. I-116, New Hartford, NY 13413; Margaret Shaub, 7 Aspen Dr., Apt. 236, South Burlington, VT 05403.*

## 42

Editor's note: It is with great sadness that I must report that **Nancy Hall Whitehouse** passed away on March 4, peacefully in her sleep. A loyal alumna, she served as the class correspondent for the past five years and she returned to campus last June for her 75th reunion. Our condolences are sent to her family.

## 43

**REUNION CLASS** Correspondent **Stu Walker** reports: The important issue now is to get everyone we can to the June reunion. My vision (macular degeneration) has diminished dramatically in the past month making reading and typing—particularly correcting all the typos!—very difficult, but I'll be there! I hope some of the women and men of our class will be there with me! • Attention **Jean Jordan**! I had a nice long chat with **Gertrude "Nicky" Lacey Thornton**, whose pigtails I used to pull when we were wandering the hills of Middlebury in the '40s, and she said she is a fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars—she knows the names of all the players and cheered them to their victory over Pittsburgh in the playoffs. She will not be able to attend the June reunion because her granddaughter is having the final version of a two-part wedding in San Francisco at the same time. • Correspondent **Jean Jordan Sheild** reports: I contacted **Natalie Dane Richdale**, living in Kennebunk, Maine, just after the blizzard of January 4. She was happily enjoying looking out the window at all the beautiful snow while sitting comfortably, enjoying her heating pad and her cat snuggled in her lap. Her son, Fred, who lives 40 minutes away in Dover, N.H., had just gone for groceries so she was not going anywhere. She's finding it harder to get around and is not working at the museum so much anymore. In September, her daughter brought her book club, consisting of nine friends, on their annual visit all the way from Denver, Colo. They are no trouble—they cook and do dishes and spend their days on hikes and just enjoy the out of doors by the ocean for a week. • It is with a heavy heart that I report the death of my dear roommate, **Carolyn Ohlander DePodwin**. Her son, David, called to say his mom died on Christmas Day. She had had a stroke a week or two before and never recovered. He sent me a reflection he had written, a portion of which is here. "Mom was loving, kind, yet strong-willed, generous, yet frugal, deliberate, smart, demanding and indefatigable. After World War II she joined the U.S. Printing Office in Washington, D.C., and later landed a job at the United Nations. She married Horace 'Dutch' DePodwin '44 on June 19, 1948. While raising their children, she worked in real estate and Dutch taught at Rutgers. They taught us compassion, respect, generosity, love for nature and the great outdoors, how to conserve, the enjoyment of gardening, doing anything with our hands and minds." My daughter, Carolyn, who is named after her, recalled how Carolyn told her about all the places she and Dutch had gone sailing. She especially enjoyed the Norwegian fjords, Greece, Turkey, the Caribbean, and Nantucket. Carolyn was loved by her family and all who knew her and will truly be missed. • I'm sorry but I'm not going to make it to reunion. We are planning to visit son Tom, Pat, and Carolyn in Newton, Mass., in July to celebrate our 60th (!) wedding anniversary and one trip is enough for me. I really wish I could make it. Also, I've asked Stu if he would be willing to combine the list of men and women in our class and report on both and he agreed! So I'm retiring as correspondent but will be willing to help Stu in any way he might need; however, I'm grateful that he will take over.
*—Class Correspondents: Jean Jordan Sheild (sheildfamily@gmail.com), 4408 Winnequah Rd., Monona, WI 53716; Stuart Walker (stuarthodgewalker@gmail.com), 1888 Luce Creek Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.*

## 44

Constance Booth sent the following sad news: "I am sorry to inform you that my mother, **Georgianna Hartdegen Booth**, passed away on December 24, 2017, after a brief illness. In the last several years she may have fallen out of touch with Middlebury due to the effects of aging, but she loved her years there and spoke of the school with affection. She was active in the orchestra, playing the violin, and in the chorus, while majoring in French. She went on to obtain a master's in nursing from Yale School of Nursing in 1946. She then spent 65 years living and working as a nurse in Connecticut, while raising two children."
*—Class Correspondents: Ruth Wheaton Evans (rrwe@verizon.net), 80 Salisbury St., Unit 603, Worcester, MA 01609; Elizabeth Ring Hennefrund (eliz.bet@earthlink.net), 397 Old Sherman Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.*

## 45

I'm sorry to report that **Barbara Abel** and **Rod Grant** both died on December 5. After graduating from Middlebury with a double major in Spanish and political science, **Barbara** moved to New York City, where she lived the rest of her life. Early on she was involved with the Middlebury Alumnae Assoc. and the American Assoc. of University Women. She took a job as a bilingual secretary at an import-export company, Kurt Orban Steel Co. in Brooklyn, and retired after 36 years as senior VP. After retirement, she volunteered for the NYC Audubon Society and served on the board for many years, taking on roles as secretary and treasurer. She was a bird-watching enthusiast who traveled all over the U.S. and to Central America on birding trips. She also traveled widely in Europe. • **Rod** left Middlebury after a year-and-a-half for the Army and served as an ambulance driver with the 95th Infantry Division in France and Germany. By the time he was ready to use his GI Bill for college, he'd already met his wife, who was attending the Cleveland Institute of Art, so he finished his degree at Western Reserve Univ. He then spent three years at Southern College of Optometry and then joined the practice his grandfather started in 1896 and his father continued. He was very involved with the Rotary and served as district governor, which led to some interesting experiences for him and wife Felicia. They spent a month in a refugee camp in Thailand, working in the vision clinic; led a Rotary group study exchange team to northeast Brazil; and went to South Africa on a Rotary world friendship exchange. • Please send me your news. Best, **Mew**.
*—Class Correspondent: Mary Elizabeth Wisotzkey McClellan (maryliz124@comcast.net), 124 RiverMead Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.*

## 46

Correspondent **Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom** had a great phone visit with **Ruth Riley Wendell**. They realized they live close enough to look forward to a visit sometime this spring. Ruthie moved to

RiverWoods, in Exeter, N.H., from upstate New York to be near her daughter, Phyllis Mackey '78, who works as a family counselor in Portsmouth, N.H. Two grandchildren, both also Middlebury alums, are embarking on interesting careers: her granddaughter, in the film industry; her grandson, who studied at Tufts as well, in the Congressional Investigation Dept. at the Library of Congress. • **Betsy Barclay Wales** said to tell you that she is "creakier and crankier." She asked us to note that her retirement residence has changed its business name to "The Landing." She has not moved. Barc had a festive Christmas in Burlington, Vt., where her two daughters live. One works at UVM and one is a teacher in the public school system. • While visiting an old school friend at Kendal at Hanover, correspondent **Joan "Cam" Campbell Shaw** again met our esteemed class chaplain, **Avery Post**. They had a brief but pleasant conversation, including, of course, the reality of being 93 with walking problems, etc. When asked if he had any words for our classmates, Av replied, "You might say that we're unbalanced." My (**Cam**) main source of entertainment these days is enjoying family activities (as a spectator), especially watching daughter Sally's big white goat follow along after her on the ski track out behind their Middletown Springs, Vt., house. • **Lois Brigham Selnau** sends her love to all, asking each of us to try to be included in Annual Giving. She points out that our high percentage of participation won us a cup at our 55th reunion. Let's shoot high again! She feels fortunate and grateful for her years in retirement living at a small assisted living facility, Middlewoods, in Farmington, Conn. She also says, "I have a job and that is to try to maintain my health and attitude in the best way that I can. I imagine that all my Middlebury classmates are in the same boat, so I know I have lots of company! Since there were no offers to take over as class agent, I have agreed to continue to do it. (However, the offer is still open!)" • Does anyone have news of "Hurdle"? **Betty Hurd Wyant**'s phone number on our list is not a working number but Google lists her current address. The last time I (**Mary Elizabeth**) spoke with her was when I was serving an earlier stint as class correspondent. She asked me, "Remember 'I'll Be Seeing You'?" Alas, I did but had no idea at the time what had happened to Pete Richter, who always closed his letters to me with "our song" title, as did his friend Ed in his letters to the late **Anne "Rod" Adams Beetle**. The guys were at RPI/V-12. Today, I could tell her that for about a year and a half, I have been enjoying weekly Wednesday lunches with Pete. He is still driving to Kennebunk from Freeport, Maine; we are both 92. Hope Hurdle reads this and will send news of herself for the next issue. She and Rod, **Kay Craven** and the late **Barbara "Fuff" Kingsley**, and my roommate, the late **June Brogger Noble** and I, moved from one dorm to another as a group of six during our last three years. • We regret to report four classmate deaths and send condolences to their families. **Alice Thorn Laquer** died December 11, 2017. She graduated from Middlebury with a degree in biology and worked as a technician at hospitals, including Lankenau and Fox Chase Institute for Cancer Research. She was an active volunteer and took great pleasure in traveling with husband Ed to many parts of the world. She was a member of the BuxMont Unitarian Fellowship. Alice will be greatly missed. • **Miriam Edmunds LeBaron** died December 23, 2017. She grew up in New London, N.H., and graduated from Middlebury with a BA in life sciences. After graduation, she worked at Boston General as a dietician. She married John LeBaron, whom she met while at Middlebury. They spent the next seven years managing various hotels before settling in Exeter, N.H. She operated Windsor Court Realty until her retirement, then moved to Marshall, Va., after John's death. • **Joyce Hitchcock Hardy** died October 31, 2017. She graduated from Middlebury with a degree in psychology. She met her future husband David while working as a stewardess for Eastern Airlines. After one year in Argentina, they returned to Waltham, Mass., and raised two children. She and Dave bought a simple camp in Ellsworth, Maine, which they enjoyed for many years. Joyce was a lifelong lover of "all creatures great and small." She had artistic and musical talent and was an avid reader. • **Norma Taylor Clark** died December 9, 2017, in Asheville, N.C. She graduated from Montclair High School in New Jersey. After her marriage to Roosevelt Clark, they raised a family in Fanwood, N.J., where she was a homemaker and volunteer. After retirement, they lived in Long Beach Island, N.J. Norma continued doing community service, traveled extensively, and enjoyed salt-water activities. Her obituary says, "She enjoyed life fully and embraced all aspects with gusto and determination."

*—Class Correspondents: Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom (nordstrom61@gmail.com), 1 Huntington Common Dr., #160, Kennebunk, ME 04043; Joan Campbell Shaw (camshaw46@comcast.net), 49 Cottage St., Manchester Center, VT 05255.*

## 47

A note from **Alice Neef Perine** indicated that she had had a blip with her heart last September. Fortunately all is well for the moment. She is still volunteering at Sheldon Museum and often sees former grads there. Alice was anticipating a wild Christmas with 12 great-grandchildren all under the age of eleven. Alice wrote that Midd is truly thriving with amazing students under outstanding leadership. • A card from **Tiffany Clark Nourse** concurred. She said that the students are receiving an education unlike anything we had when there and were dealing with the issues as they turn up, such as a workshop on sexual harassment. Both classmates are excited by the progress they see. • **Jinny Stowell James** was on the move once more. Her daughter Hillery finished her studies in medical coding and is now employed at the Halifax Medical Center in Daytona, Fla. To be nearer her place of employment, they moved together into a big house in Port Orange on December 2. While it is not on the ocean, there is a lake and a field in the back. Last year Hillery and husband Chris spent one week in their new vacation house in New Harbor, Maine, settling all the equipment that arrived from Florida and Connecticut. When finished, Jinny moved in for the summer. She celebrated her 91st birthday there with friends from Maine, Texas, and Tennessee. The Maine house is not on the ocean but has an ocean view and they do not have to worry about flooding. It seems as if they have a natural wildlife refuge as so many animals cross their yard; there is also an abundance of wildflowers everywhere. Many friends and neighbors dropped in to visit Jinny and to see the new house while she was there. Jinny's new address in Florida is 6835 Fork Mead Lane, Port Orange, FL 32128. • I called **Jean Mace Burnell** to find out how she likes her new residence in Seattle. She is very happy there, especially as she does not have to cook dinner in the evening. She takes her breakfast and lunch in her own apartment. In fact, while we were talking her son arrived with two huge sandwiches. By the time we finished talking he had devoured his and left. Jeannie say he drops in frequently but does not stay long. • I had a fascinating talk with **Joseph Foley**. He attended Middlebury as a member of the Navy V-12 unit. After four semesters at Middlebury, they were shipped out to midshipmen's school. Later he received his degree from Boston College. He spent a lot of time in the Navy and saw action in China, Korea, etc. He has five children and 11 grandchildren. His two sons attended Middlebury. One graduated with honors. The other son was into sports and suffered a terrible accident. They had to take him to Burlington for brain surgery. It was during the fall when the roads were packed with leaf lovers and they could not find a room within 100 miles of the hospital. So they slept in chairs in the ICU for three or four days. Finally, a staff member suggested that they try the Ronald McDonald House. They did so and became very interested and impressed with the program. As a result, Joseph worked with the program for 30 years. He was responsible for the establishment of the 70th Ronald McDonald House. He is grateful for Skype as it lets him keep in touch with his children. His wife passed away a short time ago and he is busy learning to be single again, to go to the market, clean the house, and do all those household jobs. After talking with him I thought we spend too much time dreaming up "news" and perhaps it would be more fun to have class members tell us of the past when we did have something to add as I had not known Joseph and now feel that I do.

*—Class Correspondent: Jeannette Atkins Louth (wmjalouth@comcast.net), 99 Depot Road West, West Harwich, MA 02671.*

# ClassActs

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**REUNION CLASS** Nancy Strianese sent in a photo of her mother, **Corinne Nagle Strianese**, with other alums who met up at the Fourth of July celebration at the Ridge Club in Sandwich, Mass., on Cape Cod. Jane Nettles Nagle '90, who is married to Corinne's nephew, arranged to have the photo taken. You can see it on page 70. • I (**Adele**) hope you can come back to campus to celebrate our 70th reunion June 8–10. Let's have a nice walk up the chapel hill together!

*—Class Correspondent: Adele Stemmler Taylor (adelesilverfox@gmail.com), 471 Washington Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.*

## 49

Correspondent **Rachel Adkins Platt** reports: Happy Spring to all my '49 classmates. I hope by the time this is in the *Middlebury Magazine* we may find more peace in the world. • I received a wonderful newsy email from **Barbara Knapp Bull** a while back and will share with you all the contents. She says she found it was time to move out of her house that she had lived in for 65 years and went from South Burlington, Vt., to Montpelier, Vt. Needless to say, it was a very hard move but she was finding that caring for her perennial garden and shrubs, etc., was too much for her and this was her best option. Fortunately, her daughter, Susie, called her to say she had found a wonderful place for her and, after seeing it, was sure it was the right spot. Barbara says, "I spent months sorting and sorting and giving away and deciding what furniture I should bring with me. All my children were on hand the day of the move and here I am with mountain views, including a perfect view of Camel's Hump, which I had looked at from my window in South Burlington. Susie and her husband, Dick, live nearby and I see them frequently. The only thing I really miss is Tuesday with the Women of UVM. Everyone here is very active, as most are younger and faster than I, but all are very friendly and pleasant to share time with so I'm very content here." She also notes, "It won't be long until our 70th." • One last interesting note about the senior living community that Andy and I (**Rachel**) moved into last April. Much to my surprise, I met one of my neighbors and discovered it was Barbara "Bobbie" Bedford Richards '48. What a small world.

*—Class Correspondents: Dixon Hemphill (dixonH1925@gmail.com), 10910 Olm Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Rachel Adkins Platt (rplatt27@gmail.com), 1 Sinclair Dr., Apt. 131, Pittsford, NY 14534.*

## 50

I have two obits to report about. My source of information is the great bio book from our 50th reunion. **William McKinley** passed away on November 22, 2017. It was a treat to read about his life. He was called to the Marine Corps for Korea but had peaceful stationings in North Carolina and the Caribbean and Mediterranean areas. At Camp Lejeune, he met a Navy nurse on the golf course. They married in 1953. Later they moved to Houston, Texas, and had a son and four daughters. He worked at Kinkaid School 34 years and helped found First Congregational Church in Houston. He and Kathleen enjoyed wonderful travels to Colorado, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, as well as Ireland and Scotland, golfing all the way. • Unfortunately I have nothing to report on **Gloria Bou Kelly**, who died October 19, 2017. She does not appear in my book and I do not own my yearbook after 22 moves. I apologize for that. But there is an obituary in the back of the magazine. • On January 12, I received a class list for our class. Does anyone know how many started out with us? At any rate, as of this moment, there are 43 alumnae and 34 alumni. That made 13 pages of information. Some mentioned their work history. I can only guess how many are still working at age 89. One of us lives in each of the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, as well as the District of Columbia. We also have one in Canada. Two of us live in each of these states: Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas. Three are in Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. California and Colorado hold four of us each. Florida is home to five. Connecticut and New York each have six, Vermont has eight, and Massachusetts holds 14. I hope we are all healthy and happy. If you want to find a classmate, let me know.

*—Class Correspondent: Virginia Orrall Albert (alan8165@outlook.com), 1451 S. Greenville Ave., Apt. 2117, Allen, TX 75002. (469-795-6310)*

## 51

**Jacob Shammash** writes, "I'm very proud of the time I studied at Midd. I am also very happy that my daughter, Dr. Ellen Shammash '84 of Minnesota, and her daughter, Amanda Hotvedt '17, had their college educations at Midd. Two of my grandchildren will also soon be applying to Midd." Jacob is now 90 years old and he continues to stay active, swimming, playing golf, and walking. They spend the winters in Bonita Springs, Fla., and summers in New Seabury (Mashpee), Mass. Jacob hailed from Baghdad to Middlebury 70 years ago and spent two years and one summer at the College, completing 95 credits before going to medical school. He enjoyed skating on the ice in front of Starr Hall, frequently at 10 p.m. after finishing his homework. He also remembers that he wakened his two roommates early in the morning to get to breakfast by 7 a.m. If you weren't there by 7:10, the doors were closed. He also writes, "The winter scenery was breathtaking, especially when you looked out of the top floor of Starr Hall. In those days, the tuition was $750 for the academic year and included room and board. I can go on and on but I truly love my school, Middlebury, in beautiful Vermont with its Green Mountains." • **Edward Furber** had a busy summer in 2017. One granddaughter spent the summer with them, waiting tables to help pay for Barnard College tuition. He sold his 27-foot boat because at 88 he could no longer jump in and out of it. His three boys found a 19-foot Grady White outboard motorboat for Liz (Loemker) '52 and him to go out in for picnics and to be on the water this summer. Ed was diagnosed with lymphoma in August 2017 and had his last chemotherapy in December. They continue to stay in a retirement community in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, during the winter and move back to the house on Southport Island, Maine, during the summer to be with their grandchildren. They feel very lucky. "Blessed I guess you'd say. As you well know, every day is a gift." • **Anthony Romano** writes, "It took 35 years in Florida to have a Midd alum move in next to us. He's not only a Midd grad but a fellow Deke! He has a tape of old Deke songs and is an MD grad of the Class of '62. Since my amputation three years ago my life has been fairly quiet, traveling from Rhode Island to Florida. I keep busy managing some leftover real estate holdings and keeping up with the growing next generation of Romanos. My two Midd grad sons are doing fine and visit often. Hope you all have a healthy and happy 2018." • **Barbara Pike Prinn** writes, "I continue to live in a senior center called Havenwood in Concord, N.H., and deal with a serious back problem. But hey! I'm still here on this earth and can find some joy in life, thank the Lord, including a four-year-old grandson! I'm SO glad I went to Middlebury." • **Roland Coates** received an award from Northfield Mount Hermon School and a letter from the performing arts chairman thanking him for his participation in a musical performance and telling him how much the students look forward to having him there. • We did learn that **Willard Jackson**'s inn in California was not affected by the fires there. We were happy to have that good news. • We are sorry to report the death of **William Castor**. Our condolences to his family and friends. • **John Mooney** attended the wedding of his great-niece, Sarah Harris '11, last June. To see a photo, go to page 70. • Best wishes to all for good health and happiness in 2018. *Please* keep in touch.

*—Class Correspondents: Lee Webster McArthur (bobleemca@gmail.com), 725 Willow St., Cranford, NJ 07016; Beth Huey Newman (bethhueynewman@gmail.com), 300 Woodhaven Dr., Apt. 2509, Hilton Head, SC 29928.*

## 52

Correspondent **Chuck Ratté** reports: I received a most welcomed and newsy email from **Hank Draghi** recently. He says, "Joan and I missed the 65th class reunion because we had just returned home after a 17-day trip to the Baltic a few days before. The trip was exceptional. We were on an 85-passenger ship that took us to Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, and Sweden. The weather was great, and except for two days of heavy seas, the sailing was smooth. Our guide was Russian and a lot of fun. He liked to tell Putin jokes. He was very informative and we learned a lot about

the region and its history. Participants on the trip were all U.S. citizens, making communication easy and fun. Recently Joan and I joined **Clay** and **Barbara Eckman Butzer** for an enjoyable lunch." Hank and Joan live in Avalon, N.J., a block from the beach. Each summer is busy enjoying family time. Clay and Barbara have a summer cottage in Avalon. They also stay busy enjoying family visitations during the summer. • Correspondent **Barbara Cummiskey Villet** reports: In the deep winter cold, I assembled some news of classmates you are reading come spring—nice thought, spring! Reactions to the cold dominated **Polly Norton Polstein**'s comments. She lives on Long Lake in North Bridgton, Maine, which set records below 20 below. "I watch the lake and there are no snowmobiles moving," Polly told me, "and no ice fishermen fishing." While she bemoaned the loss of her cross-country skiing and had to be satisfied with walking the dog twice a day, she was nevertheless planning to attend Bridgton's Winter College six-week session on the poetry of Wallace Stevens. • I also had a chat with **Louise "Erbie" Erb Mayr**, who gave up her 30-acre farm when it became too much to care for it—leaving her bees after 30 years of tending their hives. In exchange, she and husband Otto moved to Ashby Pond, a retirement community in Ashburn, Va., about a half an hour from D.C. Otto finally completed a 10-year writing stint. His volume on the 30 Years War, written in German, was published this past year. During that long concentrated effort, it was Erbie who carried the farm so she was as pleased for him and for herself that they decided to make the move to their new quarters. • **Jean Vaughan Varney** reports that during her European sojourn, which seemed to me to be an exhausting two-week tour of southwestern France, she visited Bordeaux, where Erbie's daughter lives. Here are her notes: "Did you think you'd heard the last of me? Well I did, but since I was asked, here are a few words (ha) about my October trip to France with the same group as on previous trips. After meeting our guide in Toulouse, we visited medieval, walled Carcassonne (now a UNESCO World Heritage site) for a two-night stay; then on to Lourdes and the famous grotto, which believers hold was the site of Bernadette's miracle; this was followed by Pau and its château, the birthplace of Henry IV. Then, after yet more villages, castles, cathedrals, cobblestones, shops, outdoor markets, wine tastings, and, of course, three daily meals, we arrived in a spectacular village called Rocamadour. It's built straight up the side of a mountain, with 224 steep steps pilgrims once crawled up on their hands and knees, praying they would reach the top where some believe miracles once took place. We found gorgeous views—well worth a Google. Then on to our very own 12th-century castle, Château de Castel Novel in Sarlat, for a three-night stay. Fun to imagine living in a medieval castle but not so fun to reach my room via enclosed narrow circular stone stairs with rope handrails until I learned that an elevator went most of the way up! Perhaps most memorable to me was the stop in Lascaux and its stunning replica of the prehistoric caves in which cavemen painted, in color, amazingly recognizable animals. Finally, en route to Bordeaux, we made a few stops, including in Saint-Émilion, another UNESCO site and reputedly the home of the best macarons in France. I brought some home and they were well received. Then, for the last three days, we were in Bordeaux, an elegant city central to the vineyards famed for the eponymous red wine. Some people toured its churches, shopped on the longest shopping street in France, or visited galleries, and its fabulous covered food market; others stayed in and rested up before dinner at a French chef's Michelin two-star restaurant. Then it was back to Paris airport and home to sleep for a week. This next fall, instead of another European excursion, plans are brewing for the Canadian Maritimes. Fingers crossed." • Finally, I chatted with **Mardy Peck Burgess**. In our conversation I learned that she has been the at-home caregiver for her husband, now 99, for some years now, a brave and totally generous role. But in the midst of attendant worries, she is deeply concerned for our country and the environment, particularly regarding what she called simply "the Bay." As an Annapolis, Md., resident, she says the Chesapeake has been one of her longtime loves, and the disregard of the present administration of the struggle to preserve its gifts has infuriated her. Cutbacks in funding for ongoing projects to conserve its fisheries and purity, which had been gaining positive results, has left such work for the Bay in limbo, leaving Mardy in a state of angry dismay. Anyway, let's share those feelings with her and meantime: happy spring.

*—Class Correspondents: Chuck Ratté (cr6781@gmail.com), PO Box 263, Saxtons River, VT 05154; Barbara Cummiskey Villet (villetb2@gmail.com), 208 Eagleville Rd., Shushan, NY 12873.*

## 53

**REUNION CLASS** On the weekend of June 8–10, the Class of 1953 will celebrate its 65th reunion. We hope you can make it back to campus!

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Following up on **Tom Ryan**'s harrowing flood experience in Houston, **Bert Welling** also got caught in the floods, but in Florida, marking a dramatic end to 2017. Bert wrote, "We moved to Osprey Village on Amelia Island to a small stand-alone house in late August, just in time for an evacuation from Hurricane Irma. We evacuated with our younger son's family, who live in Ponte Vedra Beach. Our grandkids called it a 'Hurrication' as we drove to western Georgia, and then again to northern South Carolina to avoid the worst of the storm. No damage to our house, but lots of broken limbs and trees down in our backyard. Then, soon after, our elder son, who lives in Santa Rosa, Calif., needed to evacuate their house with their two teenage girls, four dogs, one cat, and two bunnies because of the major fire there. It came to within a few blocks of their house, so they only suffered smoke damage." Bert reflected, "It seemed time for us to make a move while we are still active (but we don't climb mountains anymore), and getting a place with a beach nearby and help later on when needed was a good move for us. Osprey Village is a relatively small independent/assisted living facility with memory care as well. It's on the Amelia Island Plantation, an area of a club, golf courses, Omni Resort, and other attractions. However, we've learned that the older you are, the harder it is to move! We should have done this a few years ago." Bravo, Bert! • We are sad to report that **James Ralph** died December 21. Jim loved reunions, especially enjoying the fact that his son, also James Ralph, is a part of the Middlebury faculty, as Rehnquist Professor of American History and Culture. **Clive Coutts** has died as well, living in Waitsfield, Vt., until his death on January 30. We also learned that **Ed Hager**, a physician in Woodland Hills, Calif., died two years ago, making us Californians (the Parkers) sad we did not reach out to hear more about his life nearby. And Middlebury has received news it can't verify that **Orville Elliot** died January 1, 2015. If any classmates have more certain information than the letter sent from Orville's landlord in Canada, please let us know. • **Julie Howard Parker** is feeling almost back to normal after a small heart attack early in January. She gave up teaching all French classes, even for 12 new students who had seen an ad online, much to her disappointment. But she and Peter '54 are enjoying listening to *Grant* by Chernow on Audible, or to their record collection (dating from Middlebury days!) by the fire on chilly evenings, and taking walks over to the Eaton Canyon mountain trails up towards Mt. Wilson, where Peter continues and Julie turns back home. Recently, articles in the Vermont *Addison Independent* and *White River Herald* reported the news of the Parkers agreement with the Vermont Land Trust to put their Granville 544-acre family farm and forest under a conservation easement to protect it in perpetuity from development. They wouldn't have known about the *Addison Independent* article had not Lois Wanstall Kaufmann '54 and Will '51 and Carolyn Bennett Jackson '61 sent copies to them.

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**Sue Heyer Byers** reports a visit last November from **Pat Hinman Makin**, who came to attend an event-packed College weekend, as well as a surprise visit from **Walter Crump**. Sue is still a guardian ad litem and co-chair of a local capital campaign. **Bruce Byers** is digging drainage ditches to improve the new Middlebury dog park and is also working on a capital campaign; and they're

both still involved with the Town Hall Theater. • **Dave** and **Jojo Kittell Corey** went on a wonderful cruise on one of Viking's new larger ships. Starting in London, they went to Edinburgh, the Orkney Islands, and the Shetland Islands, then to the top of Norway, stopping at different ports on the way down, ending in Bergen. One of the highlights of the cruise was a concert in the home of Edvard Grieg in Bergen. • **Mimi Dupont Daigle** and husband Jim moved to an independent living facility after dealing with an unexpected bout of osteoarthritis in the knees, thankfully now in remission. They now live in Groton, Conn., 30 minutes away from Norwich, Conn. She commuted between the two almost every day for months, working to sort the wheat from the chaff. Sadly, she thinks their travel days are over, but keeps all of their albums and journals of their trips abroad, to peruse and enjoy. • **Nancy Walker Faulkner** had the whole family with her for Christmas: all three daughters and five of her six grandchildren. She likes to play bridge regularly, and even plays in marathons. Relief from cold winter temperatures included a short trip to Sanibel Island with **Junie Stringer DeCoster**. • After **Gail Howard Flanagan** and husband Bill spent 32 years in Nashville, while he taught at Vanderbilt, they moved "back home" to Beverly, Mass., because living by the ocean was on her bucket list. Ten years later, they moved again to Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Md., because Bill's dementia was getting worse. Asbury is a continuing care facility with a huge campus, including a certified arboretum. They were very pleased to have made that choice, especially because two of their daughters live nearby. Gail lost Bill last June but finds that having lots of friends and support has made the adjustment much easier than she expected. • In Colorado Caleb and **Sid Brock Gates** report that the excitement in their lives revolves mainly around fishing. They spend a good deal of time at their fishing cabin on the South Platte River near Deckers. Since the '90s, they have also fished in Patagonia practically every year. Last October they fished on the Missouri River, in Craig, Mont. • Sadly we have news of the passing of **Mona Duggan Nesbitt** in Rochester, N.Y., **Natalie Chalfin Phillips**, in New Bedford, Mass., and **Bruce Flournoy Duncan**, in Columbus, Ohio. • Correspondent **John Baker** reports: I was so pleased that **John** and **Kathy Hughes von Hartz** came to my 85th birthday party in New York in October. • Even when **Earl Samson** says, "Nothing new to report," I'm glad to hear a response and know that he is alive and well. • **Andrew Sigourney**'s oldest grandson was married in a woodland ceremony at World's End in Hingham, Mass. He's a surgical technician, and she's a shop manager. Their first great-grandson arrived last spring to the next oldest grandson. Three grandsons are still single—one in college, one in high school, and one in middle school. He says, "Flo (Fisher) '57 and I spent a large portion of our children's inheritance on a cruise from Seattle to Glacier Bay, Alaska, via Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Victoria, BC. Otherwise we've been spending retirement in our seaside house in Nahant, Mass. We bought it 58 years ago. Flo's in amazingly good health for a lass of her age and she takes good care of me as I wheeze around with a portable oxygen concentrator. I quit smoking back in '89 but COPD grabbed me regardless. As Pete Seeger sang, 'I just hang around to see what's coming next.'" • **John** and Sally Beyer '56 **MacGowan** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 28. They were at daughter Alix and husband David's house in Nyack, N.Y., with the whole family, except grandson Paul who is in China and grandson Matt and great-grandson Owen, who are in Florida. • **Pete** and Carolyn Whitmore '54 **Baldwin** are still living in Gilmanton, N.H., on the farm property his parents purchased as a summer home before he was born. They now spend the winter months in what was Pete's office on part of the farm. He has recently written *A Memoir*, which is available on Amazon. • **Dave McKissock** called to check in. I had stopped by to see them last summer and am always glad to hear a warm voice on the phone. • **Bob Gallagher** writes, "Teaching skiing and travel is a big part of my life. I started 2017 with a small-ship Panama Canal passage combined with a visit to Costa Rica. I ended the year in the Middle East—Israel, Palestine, Egypt, and Jordan combined with a passage through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to Aqaba, Jordan. We walked over 100 miles through Jewish, Muslim, and Christian sites and, of course, through all 7,000 years of Egyptian archaeology, history, geology, etc. We did a summer three-week driving trip through Colorado, which included national parks, steam trains in the mountains, and fly-fishing the San Juan and Colorado Rivers. We also did our annual spring golf trip to Florida, the NCAA Frozen Four college hockey championships in Chicago (with Middlebury alums, son and daughter-in-law), and the annual ski trip to Utah. That trip is my two-week vacation from my full-time ski teaching job. I'm in my 23rd year doing that. Wife Ruth was with me through every step, ski turn, golf shot, and fly cast along the way (she caught the biggest trout). We have the good fortune of good health and some good friends to travel with." • **Jonathan Brand**'s new book has been published by Powerhouse Books. Be sure to check it out: *Lower East and Upper West: New York City Photographs 1957–1968*. (See page 57.) Jon has become a noted photographer since leaving Middlebury. He developed his photography through study with some of the most accomplished photographers of his day: Richard Avedon, Garry Winogrand, David Vestal, and Bruce Davidson. Jon's photographs are in public and private collections including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Portland Museum of Art (Maine), the Portland Art Museum (Oregon), and the Bennington Museum (Vermont). • **John Denny** brought me up to date with the death of his Taft classmate **Jack Buckingham.** Jack died in Bristol, Maine, December 14. He and Lexia (Angell) '56 had been married for 63 years. I'm sorry to end with the report that **Bob Entwistle** died on November 17. After a career in publishing in Massachusetts, he and his teenage sweetheart, Marilyn "Woodsie," settled in Portland, Maine. They were married young and had six children and 13 grandchildren. Bob always loved the outdoors—he had a pilot's license, skied, and played golf and tennis. He enjoyed teaching people with disabilities to ski. • I really want to thank all of you who respond to my email enquiries. I'll keep doing this as long as you all help by getting back to me when I reach out.

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**Liz Alexander Brierley** and husband Jim attended Alumni College last August with **Sally Thomson Clark** and husband Tom, and **Bill** and **Joan MacKinnon Houghton**. She really enjoyed it and encourages us all to go. • A Christmas card from Joanie and Bill gives a new address at a 55+ community (after two moves from Cleveland) in Ithaca, N.Y., where two of their daughters live: 18 Horizon Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850. Her email address is joanmhoughton@gmail.com. • **Zane Hickcox Kotker** received our email news request while cleaning up email, "an every-so-often chore that makes clear how swamped we all are with the plethora of options and to-do's thrown at us from every direction. My goal today is just to get emails down to one electronic page. Then I'll be on to the day's research: Roku or smart TV? The iCloud is landing on us!" We couldn't agree with you more, Zane. • Sadly, **Gail Moore Graham** reports that husband Jim died at the end of August. Our deepest sympathies to her and her family. Gail also said she hopes to attend Alumni College with her daughter, Ann, in coming years. • **Mark Benz** reports on something he is passionate about and wants to share with all of us. "X-rays and children keep me energized these days, specifically the X-rays used for CT imaging of children. In 2001, the Brenner Team at Columbia Univ. demonstrated that the X-rays used for CT imaging can create damaged cells in children that initiate a delayed form of fatal cancer, showing up at midlife in a significant number of cases. The status today is much better, but could be even better. The important metric for cell damage is X-ray dose. In 2001, a high dose was used. This has been reduced by almost half by use of 'digital' postimaging noise reduction, introduced by CT imaging machine manufacturers. Under the auspices of a Univ. of Vermont grant, a team of professionals from Brown Univ., the medical world, a CT system remanufacturer photon filter, and a Middlebury/MIT/GE retired metallurgist—the Benz Team—developed a contrast enhancement photon filter, which combined with digital postimaging noise reduction is projected to increase the dose reduction to 90 percent,

a combination yet to be tried by CT manufacturers. A modern 'not convinced here' challenge is ongoing. Ideas for encouraging manufacturers to take action are welcome." Thank you, Mark. The research you've done all these years and continue to do is greatly appreciated. • **Tom Woolsey** reports: "Lois (Guernsey) '57 and I were married in Mead Chapel in 1957 with a reception at the ATO House. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in Big Pine Key, Fla., where we have been living for six months each year with a very friendly and active community at an RV park. We also have a house in Fort Myers and a summer cabin near Bethel, Maine, where we were when Hurricane Irma made landfall on September 10 at Big Pine Key and continued north up the Florida west coast and through Fort Myers. Our house there had only minor damage, but numerous trees and power lines were down. Our trailer in the Keys, along with 65 others stored there by snowbird friends, were picked up by the eight-foot storm surge, bashed together, flooded with salt water, mud, sand and seaweed, and essentially destroyed. Many ground-level houses and businesses and some on stilts in the area were trashed. We and most other park residents replaced our mobile living units and were allowed to locate them on bulldozer-restored sites beginning November 20 and we continue to help with local clean-up and restoration. We sympathize with those much harder hit by weather events in places like Puerto Rico. Is sea-level rise and climate-swing intensification partly responsible? Humans have lived in a minuscule slice of time but now have frightening capability for world-altering actions. I believe it's selfish for the U.S. to place short-term economic gain ahead of joining most others in the world who have agreed to implementing measures to reduce global warming." Right on, Tom! • **Meme Parsons Salisbury** shares news from France: "We're here in Paris for the seventh year, the sixth in the same building complex. No broken legs this year, and we're very busy with our continuing French lessons and rehearsals for our two choruses. Wright also still teaches English to his adored Sri Lankan students. Our concerts began in late November and will continue regularly into June. This is a very important dimension of our living here. We spent Christmas Eve at a *réveillon* with some French friends and going to the late service at the American Cathedral. We've had quite a bit of time off during the school vacation from our regular activities so we've been finishing up some Netflix series and have been to several movies. Wright's happy this week because his two favorite students have been coming during the vacation—their schedule at school doesn't permit them the time as they live in the *banlieux* and it's too long a trip during the week." Meme, you and Wright are living life to the fullest and that's great!

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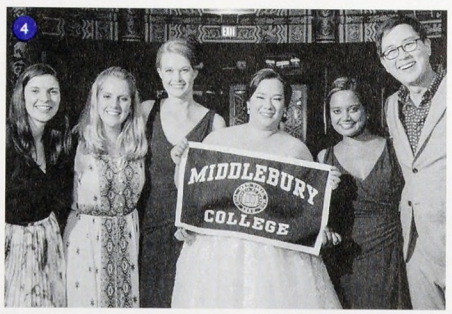
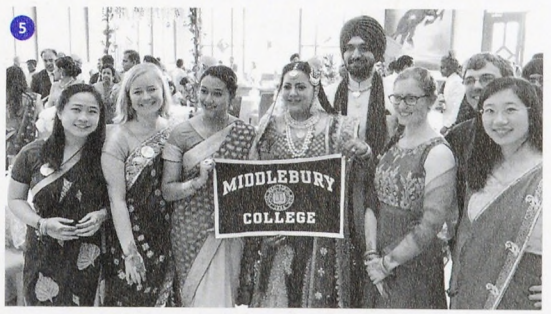
1 Alison Fonseca '11 and Brendan Mahoney '11 were married at St. Mary's in Middlebury, Vt., and held their reception at Tourterelle in New Haven on October 15, 2016. Father Scott Gratton '09 was the officiant. Middlebury friends and family helped them celebrate: (all '11 unless noted) Dan Khan, Ben Wells, MA Spanish '00 (rugby coach), Michael Hodge, Shree Dhond, Michael Pappa, Abhishek Sripad, Andrew Law, Stephen Mahoney '78, (second row) Connor Burleigh '10, John Garrett, Mickey Heinecken (football coach), Josie Keller '09, the newlyweds, Liana Fong, Zach Bills, Afsana Liza Zohir, Philip Ehrlich, Sofia Zinger, Drew Harasimowicz, and Jess Minton '10. 2 Ashley Elpern '02 married Nick Chapman on July 23, 2016, in Poipu, Hawaii, where Ashley grew up. Making it all the way to Hawaii were Emily Loesche '05, Will Vaughan '01, Jessica Monroe Vaughan '02, the newlyweds, and Mariah McKechnie '01. 3 Bonnie Hemphill '08 married Aaron Paul on September 3, 2016, in Eastern Promenade Park in Portland, Maine. Midd friends served as parade marshals from the ceremony to the brewery reception.




4 On November 14, 2016, Kasima Brown '09 married Brian Garst at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., with friends from the Class of '09 attending: Alexis Stangarone, Chelsea Utterback, Rowan Braybrook, the bride, Tarsi Dunlop, and Ryan Kellett. 5 Ruchi Singh '11 married Harry Grewal on December 25, 2016, in Chandigarh, India. Friends helping the couple celebrate included (all '11 unless noted) Christina Wu, Madeleine Goransson, Dristy Shrestha, the newlyweds, Michelle Fechtor, Clark Hatheway '13, and Jia Liu.

# ClassActs

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Sadly, **Rosario "Zip" Rausa** died on January 4. **Charlie Sykes**, a close friend, sent in this tribute to Zip that he wrote for Zip's 75th birthday: "I had the unique opportunity to be your classmate, teammate, and roommate at Middlebury College and I always marveled at your endurance and commitment to the eclectic menu of activities you had chosen for yourself. From your roots in Hamilton, N.Y., you somehow found your way to a place at one of New England's prestigious citadels of higher education—Middlebury—a small, somewhat closed society. While the social lives of many Middlebury students revolved around fraternities and sororities, you spent what free time you had on the gridiron, basketball court, and baseball diamond playing intercollegiate sports between studying and waiting on tables. Amongst faculty and students, there was no one busier than you! In those early years, you set ambitious goals for yourself, e.g., to fly and to use your writing skills professionally. No obstacles could discourage you from achieving these goals, whether it was overcoming writer's cramp, battling deadlines for *Naval Aviation Magazine,* or persisting in passing the aviation tests to fly for the Navy. Perhaps the greatest, most satisfying and admirable aspect of your 75 years has been your close-knit family led by Neta and you—your three daughters, two sons, and your grandchildren. I feel privileged to be counted as your friend today and through these many years!" Fifty years after playing basketball together, Charlie and Zip teamed up again, representing Virginia in the senior Olympics in three-on-three half-court basketball in the 70–75 age group. "During one of the games I broke my wrist and had to retire. But Zip kept playing and in late September of last year, he traveled to New Orleans for a game, playing this time in the 80–85 age group."

## 58

**REUNION CLASS** From South Yarmouth, Mass., **Jeannie Lindblow Canning** brings us up to date on her activities since graduation: "My husband, Harry (Brown '58), and I visited Middlebury recently, and it felt good to be back, but strange, too. There have been so many changes, yet the wonderful memories remain. After traveling for the government, living in Germany, the then USSR, and Turkey, we retired to Cape Cod. (I had been teaching English as a second language or for the learning disabled all along.) Here, we are busy with church and community activities. Family, the beach, our gardens, and music remain great sources of pleasure. Our travels are now back and forth to the West Coast. Daughter Alison is married to a planetary geologist at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena. Drew, our son, is a design engineer with Boeing. He and his wife live outside Seattle with our three grandchildren. Perhaps one of them will attend Middlebury someday." • **Mary "Ro" Roemmele Crowley** has started a new show on PEGTV—*ZING! A Show for Children*. She is having a fabulous time learning about young children and the challenges they confront in today's world. In addition to manners, music, words, colors, poetry, puppets, reading, art, and much more, she is talking to the child who is watching (directly into the camera, as Mr. Rogers did) and telling that child how important and wonderful she or he is. Anyone anywhere can get the half-hour show by searching YouTube ZING! episode 4 (or any other episode). She asks anyone who watches the show to send feedback to artandmarycrowley@comcast.net, or phone her at 802-775-1198, or write to her at 7 Hill Pond Rd., Rutland VT 05701. She believes she is doing something worthwhile and wants to learn how to make the show better. She writes, "Any and all comments are welcome!" • We were saddened to learn of the death of classmate **Bobbi Sanderson Sheldon** on January 12, 2017. **Debbie West Zipf** pays tribute to Bobbi with the following: "I met **Bobbi** in 158 North Battell on the first morning of our freshman year. No, we had not met nor corresponded before; Middlebury admitted young ladies and expected appropriate behavior. But I caught my breath when I saw her; I, ordinary and unsophisticated, Bobbi, tall, beautiful, and rather exotic (had she really been a model? I seem to remember that she had), with an air of worldliness. And from New York! No wonder my mother was nervous! But Bobbi and I were both students, intensely interested in our college experience. We studied and studied and got along happily. And Bobbi was a new experience for me, independent without being rebellious, very much her own person with no concern about expectations—and in 1954 there were a lot of expectations. Bobbi wore her hair long; everyone said she should cut it because shorter hair was the style. Bobbi didn't object to the commentary; she just wasn't interested in it. Bobbi was a skier (as was practically everybody at Middlebury), and her ski clothes were black; everyone said only Olympians wore black. Bobbi wasn't interested. Black was what she had, and it suited her fine. Bobbi had a luxuriant raccoon coat that had belonged to her mother. Vermont was cold in those days but nobody wore raccoon coats. Never mind; the coat was warm, so Bobbi wore it. In our sophomore year, Bobbi married the love of her life—and Middlebury expelled her. It took her 10 years to get her degree at UPenn. Like the rest of us, she lived an adult life of ups and downs. For me, she is an integral part of that first glowing year at Middlebury, and I will never forget her." • We, also, were saddened to learn of the passing of **Sue Lockwood Lewis** on June 23, 2017. A good friend, **Dottie Bigelow Neuburger,** gives us a wonderful appreciation and glimpse of Sue's life after college: "Sue married **John Lewis**, her college sweetheart, and they raised their family of four great children in Middlebury. Sue supported John in his several business ventures and inventions, and the family was active in the community, particularly in the world of skiing. Sue taught at the Snow Bowl and supported her children's racing careers. She became an elementary school teacher, and, for years, was one of the most inventive and creative teachers at Mary Hogan School in Middlebury, beloved by her coworkers, the children, and their parents. Upon her retirement, she served on the school board of her town of Salisbury and was an active volunteer in the small local school. Her home and gardens were noteworthy, and she continued to care for them. She was a person of note and will be much missed." • From **Ann Parnie Frobose** came a great tale of a wonderful gathering of Middlebury gals: "In early November 2017 in a hotel in San Diego we had a mini-reunion that was attended by **Ginny Davis Irwin, Bobbie Bang Knowles, Ro Crowley**, and me. We ate in good restaurants and visited various places in the area, but, best of all, was the talking. At 80, our shared Middlebury memories, various views on current events, the arts, our families, and our long, interesting lives were like drinking fine wine with much laughter. We are looking forward to our 60th reunion." • We sincerely hope all of our terrific classmates are doing the same! **Ro** and the Reunion Committee have wonderful events planned. In addition, there will be an exhibition of the wood sculptures of **John Cross** on display at the Sheldon Museum in town and a reception will happen on campus on Saturday. We want to see you all, so please return to Middlebury for the Class of '58's big reunion, June 8–10.

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**Dick Krasker** writes, "We were fortunate to have moved from Fryeburg to Portland, Maine, during the winter. It was 15 below in Portland while 29 below in Fryeburg." Dick appreciates the cold weather as it keeps the black flies and mosquitoes under control. "Other than being depressed with both our state and federal governments, life goes on as we anticipate 'pots of money' with the new tax bill. I'm already working on my 'must-have' list." • **Charlie Davis** has published an essay about the value of an education in the humanities and liberal arts, "The Practicality of an Impractical Education," in the *Rocky Mountain Modern Language Review*. In it he offers testimony that such an education broadens experience, allowing the learner to tolerate the ambiguity and uncertainty of incomplete information and to have the self-knowledge and confidence to predict patterns and invent responses. It prepares the mind to solve problems which have yet to occur. (Andy's note: Charlie, you should have written the essay before we went to see Dean of Men Thumper during our freshman year!) • **Millicent Fairhurst** writes, "My 79th year has been an active one. I produce my church newsletter and sit on the church council. As a volunteer with My Own Book Fund, I take third graders from disadvantaged schools to Barnes and Noble to shop for books of their

own choosing. In August, I went to Alumni College, where the College archivist told me that the history/women's studies program wanted to use my book *Middlebury Women 1959* in their curriculum. I spent a week in Canada with **Anne Goebel Barkman** and am in touch via email with **Phyllis Leach Morris, Ginny Schlosser Vaules,** and **Anne Martin Hartmann.** Plus I go to the theater a lot." • On a sad note, we report the 2017 deaths of **Pamela Payne Lewis** on March 17, **Stephen Cohen** on June 29, and **Ruth Haynes Sargent** on October 11. Regarding Pamela, **Lucy Paine Kezar** writes, "Pam's father, Deming Payne, and my father, David Paine, were roommates and premed classmates at Hamilton College, Class of 1926. They both became physicians. The families stayed in touch; however, it's a coincidence that Pam and I became members of this Middlebury class." An obituary for Pam can be found in the back of the magazine or you can google "Pamela Payne Lewis Pittsburgh Post-Gazette" for a wonderful tribute. • **Andy Montgomery** adds this about **Paul Koumrian**, who died on January 24: "Paul was one of our most popular classmates. He was a DU and I first met Paul in fourth grade at PS101, Forest Hills, N.Y. Paul, the late **Barb Burch Melhado, Tevis Morse, Millicent Fairhurst** and I all graduated from PS101 and ended up at Midd in September 1955." • **Stu Purdy** continues his leisurely lifestyle. He recently traveled on the *Queen Elizabeth* from England to Fort Lauderdale with stops in Bermuda and New York. Stu traveled on the first *Queen* in the '60s and the *QE2* in the '80s and has now completed the set. "I'm still employed but retired January 1 from active duty as the oldest acolyte in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. I kept tripping over my cassock and was caught nipping on the communion wine." • **Mary Charles Hubbard Blakebrough,** of Durham, N.C., went to a workshop near Brighton, U.K., in mid-January. She enjoyed learning more about using circles for healing and personal growth. Her work will now be focused on facilitating circles modeled on Lynne McTaggart's latest book, *The Power of Eight: Harnessing the Miraculous Energies of a Small Group to Heal Others, Your Life, and the World.* • **Eric Lorentzen** writes, "To satisfy **Bick Bicknell**'s predilection for the prurient sides of life with my kids, I spent my Big 80 in Chicago and celebrated at a Club called Howling at the Moon, my fave from earlier times. I was 'backstabbed' by the club with a public announcement to the crowd and was subsequently pulled up onto the stage to lead the multitudes in singing. Not knowing any of the current junk music, we settled on 'My Way' and I brilliantly brought the crowd to their feet with a powerful rendition about 12 times as they joined in." (Andy notes: We are looking for a repeat performance during our 60th reunion). "As I left the stage, I was assaulted by some 20 young actresses demanding kisses and hugs and dancing with them. As I was filling my address book, the clock struck 10:30 p.m. and I turned into a pumpkin and rolled/crawled out of there. Talk about contrasts the next afternoon when we had box seats at the Lyric Opera opening of *Rigoletto*. The next 80 should be easier!" • **Bill Wemmerus** states that auditing Horace Beck's course on ballads led him to a lifetime interest in folk music. Bill has given several presentations on music related to American history at the Lifelong Learning Center program in Virginia. Topics have centered on occupations, immigration, labor movements, and the Westward movement. "These programs, generally on cassettes for the music, led to doing these presentations live. I and two talented friends sang such songs as 'Shenandoah,' 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?,' and quite a few lesser-known gems, providing context with related stories. We would close with an ode to getting older: 'How do I know my youth is all spent, my get up and go has got up and went.'" • **Bob** and Polly Philbrick '60 **Ray** traveled west to visit **Eric Lorentzen** and **Bruce Cameron**. "We spent three days with each KDR brother catching up on old times and enjoying some very interesting sightseeing. What a great trip!" • **Fred Swan** has finally been slowed down. Wife Pat's knee replacement surgery has prevented them from hiking all over the world. They did get to NYC to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary and had lunch with **Mil Fairhurst** and saw *The Magic Flute* and the play *Shadowlands*. • **Ren Curry** and wife Nancy spent the last part of July hiking in the Dolomites, and visited Padua, Trieste, Slovenia, and Venice. "A wonderful time but never, never go to Italy in August. All the Italians are on holiday and flock to the big tourist attractions like Venice!" • Many thanks to **Millicent Fairhurst** who is helping gather notes while **Lucy** is taking a break! If you want to be in touch, you can send her notes at milfair@earthlink.net. • Our 60th reunion on June 7–9, 2019, is not that far away. Put it on your calendar!

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News came in about 2017. Last summer Herb and **Judy Richardson Weil** took a Road Scholar tour of the four Scandinavian capitals, focused on art, architecture, and open-air museums. When not traveling, the Weils enjoy a Shakespeare reading group and a book club in Victoria, B.C. • **Lindy Hill Reed** cruised and toured in Cuba. She was in Douglas, Wyo., with friends to watch the solar eclipse. She keeps busy volunteering at her church and the state AAUW chapter. In November Lindy, **Jane Bryant Quinn**, and another high school classmate spent a fun-filled long weekend in New York City. • **Robbie Sperry Schweiger** appreciates having two of her three daughters and five of seven grandchildren nearby in Denver. Robbie enjoys reading in her home in a newish residential area developed on the site of the former Denver airport. • The highlight of **Nancy "Mumf" Mumford Mulvey**'s year was two weeks in South Africa in August celebrating the 10th wedding anniversary of daughter Kathy and spouse Patricia Lambert, followed by a safari and touring on the Cape Peninsula. Mumf is an active volunteer in Andover, Mass., serving on an elder services task force, and staying busy in her UU congregation and an area multifaith group that supports LGBTQ+ folks. She and **Rose Mary McDonough Natelson** and **Helen Smith Folweiler-Chipman** had a lovely tour and lunch together at the Gardner Museum in Boston in the fall. • Rather than ski down them, **Herb Foster** climbs up mountains. Last fall Herb and son Jeremy climbed a New England Hundred Highest Peak to celebrate his 80th birthday. With son Marc he climbed a "5,000" peak in the Cascades while visiting Seattle with wife Nancy. Earlier in the summer he climbed his 600th listed peak. Herb gets up in the world. • Dick and **Sally Giguere Giglio** escaped the 15 below New England winter at their condo in Naples, Fla. They enjoyed double-dating with Dud '59 and **Nona Lyons Livingston**, who spend the winter nearby. Sally writes, "Can you believe we Class of 1960ers are turning 80 this year?" • **Jean MacInnes** sold her Bohart Ranch property and bought a house in a retirement community in Bozeman, Mont. She still found time to hike, bike, and kayak in Glacier Park; kayak in Wade Lake, Mont., and Big Spring, Idaho; and meet friends for an annual hike in Yellowstone. • **Anne De Sola Paust** reported a wonderful year with two weddings and time with her family. • In Hingham, Mass., 47 of **Art Myles**'s dahlia plants bloomed into early November. The First Parish buildings continued under his care and repair. Wife Penny enjoyed quilting and working on various church committees. They both took classes through the UMass OLLI program. • Lee and **Joe Bujold** celebrated his 80th birthday at their summer home in Maine. Among the family in their photo were three Midd alums; daughter Noelle '88 and son Marc '91 and his wife, Jill '89. • **John Cowan** has put his house on the market and is preparing to move to a new independent living facility. Six years ago he downsized by 50 percent and reports that another 50 percent is required. He is trying to unload as much as possible on his kids. Times have changed and there is so much they have no use for. • **Breck** and **Susan Hibbert Lardner** were back at Middlebury for the Dissipated 8 reunion. Mead Chapel was filled with songs by members from the '60s to the current D-8. • Mel and **Polly Johnson Stephens** moved to a condo community in Concord, Mass., popular with retirees. For the first time ever they ate Thanksgiving dinner in a restaurant. It was easier for Polly who was recovering from back surgery. She missed having a home-cooked meal. Grandson Cameron made her day when he said he liked her stuffing better. • Our sympathy goes to **Helen Folweiler-Chipman** and Dave Chipman on the death of Dave's younger son after a long and debilitating illness. • We

are sorry to report the death of **Ann Meeker Silver** in December, a member of Delta Delta Delta. She was a sociology major, and a member of the Spanish Club, Women's Forum, and the yacht club. Ann was a sophomore guide and member of the sophomore class council. Our sympathy goes to her husband, Dan '62. • Thanks for all your holiday cards and letters. Your news will appear in a future class column. Please contact **Jean Seeler-Gifford** for addresses of classmates who have moved.

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We received notice of the death of **Doug Jocelyn** on November 29, after a long illness. An obituary appears in the back of the magazine. We express our condolences to Doug's family and friends.

*—Class Correspondent: Janet S. Reed (jsreed2800@me.com), 929 W. Foster Ave., #2620, Chicago, IL 60640.*

## 62

**Mona Donderi Rogers** and husband Larry are in their 40th year as Vermonters! Larry retired in 1992 from Digital Equipment Corporation. Mona owned and operated the Addison County Diet Center until 1993, then returned to teaching after three years as office manager for Discover Writing Company in Shoreham. Mona taught music in elementary schools in Shoreham, Bridport, and Leicester. She and Larry moved to a retirement ranch home in Brandon in 2005. Mona still is a substitute teacher, and she has been branch librarian at the Sarah Partridge branch of Ilsley Public Library in East Middlebury since 2003. In 2017 she was chosen Citizen of the Year by the Prudential Committee of East Middlebury for her contributions to the community. Mona continues to sing with the Vermont Symphony Chorus and Middlebury Congregational Church choir. Her volunteer activities include singalongs with elders, gardening, and hospice work. • If the idea of taking a cruise on a megaliner with 4,000 other passengers doesn't appeal to you, you might want to consider a riverboat cruise, which is what several of our classmates did in 2017. **Jon Letowt** took an AMA cruise on the Danube on the *Stella* in November. This was an eight-day wine-tasting cruise from Budapest to Vienna to Linz to Passau and on to Vilshofen, Germany. The four-course dinners were paired with wines provided by the winemakers themselves, who spoke of their love for farming and the risks involved. • **Penny Stout Shanks**, **Gail Bonhag Schaefer**, **Marian Meade Opela**, and Terry Opela took a Viking cruise on the Elbe River in October, beginning in Prague and ending in Berlin. They toured Prague, Dresden, the porcelain factory in Meissen, Torgeau where Russia and America met near the end of WWII, Wittenberg, Sanssouci, and Berlin, including Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate, among other stops. The entire tour took place in an area that was once behind the Iron Curtain, where they learned such things as these: in Czechoslovakia, those whose homes were too large were resettled into small, crowded quarters; everything behind the Iron Curtain was gray—buildings, clothes, life in general; in East Germany existing factories were dismantled and the machinery sent off to Russia; informers were everywhere and everyone feared being taken to secret police headquarters. The trip was filled with beautiful scenery, a calm and placid river, sumptuous accommodations, and excellent company. The most memorable part of the journey was what they learned from people close in age to them whose lives had been so radically different from their own. • My husband and I (**Judy Bosworth Roësset**) also did a riverboat cruise in 2017, with UNIWORD on the Rhine with our three sons and their spouses. Great adventure with ample opportunity to overindulge in food, drink, and interesting excursions. • On a sadder note, three more of our classmates died in 2017: **Bill Jackson**, **Wayne Bailey**, and **Will Strong**, none of whom I (**Judy**) knew while at Midd. But after my fundraising stint for our 50th reunion, I was in email contact with Will and remember his mentioning his being a partner in the largest lemon and avocado agribusiness in the country. Rumors that lemons might be major killers of cancer cells provoked his interest and he hoped that research might prove that lemon peel or pulp might provide a medicine or therapy beneficial to cancer patients. He also was a counselor to small businesses through the SCORE program in Charlotte. • And back to more cheerful news: **Kathy McKinley Harris**'s book of poems, *Earth Striders*, was published in the fall. The short pieces have to do with her summers on a hill farm in Vermont while growing up. Her father was from Stowe but left at age 16 after graduation from Stowe High School and drove in an open car to Ada, Ohio, where he went to Ohio Northern University to study chemical engineering. Kathy was born in Wilmington, Del., and during WWII, lived in Niagara Falls, N.Y. She grew up in chemical towns, including Detroit and finally Ashtabula, Ohio. Her poems are a charming memoir of the enchanted summers she spent on the farm.

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## 63

**REUNION CLASS** We received a sad letter from Jerry Ackerman reporting on the death of his wife, **Carol Nieter Ackerman**. There was an interesting note on how they met. Apparently, **Catherine Tilden Howell** introduced them. They were married in 1967. • There's news from **Victor Ettinger**. (Note to others in the class: we would love to hear from you.) It was a great note and too lengthy to reprint but delightful to read. He had quite a career as an endocrinologist, his last post as chief at Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield, Calif. He retired and continued his private practice until 2014. He now is involved in telemedicine to keep his hand in medicine and keep his brain "from rotting away." He lives in Laguna Woods Village in Orange County, Calif., and is both teaching and taking classes in this senior citizen community. He remains ecstatically married to his first and only wife, Eileen, and they have three children and six grandchildren—the youngest being two and a joy! He doesn't know if he can make it to the 55th but if you are in California, get in touch for sure. He says, "Best to all of the Class of '63, no doubt the best class that ever walked the hallowed halls of Middlebury College." Agreed. • A nice note from **Anna Panayotou**, (Manhattan, N.Y.) came in. She visited her daughter and two grandchildren in Arlington, Va., and got to see grandkids' softball, baseball, and flag football games. Ariane, her daughter, is a partner at the law firm of Arnold and Porter in D.C. in the firm's healthcare practice. "I am a very proud mother." Granddaughter Elena made JV softball at Yorktown High School. "I am a very proud grandmother!" • **Janet Brevoort Allen-Spencer** (Huntington Station, N.Y.) got in touch and was very relieved and appreciative that she has passed the torch as class correspondent. She and husband Jeff had a rough year and he died in August 2017. She was definitely looking forward to February, when she planned to join her London son, his wife, and her six-year-old grandson for an annual ski vacation in Klosters, Switzerland. Upon her return, she planned to sign up for our 55th reunion! • **Carolyn Foster Broadbent** writes that she finally transitioned to retirement two years ago. Although it took her a while to retire, she was very quick to adapt to sleeping in and doing whatever the spirit moved her to do. She loves living in Tallahassee, Fla.—just the right size for a city. She claims to be a bit of a Luddite. Look it up. Hint: she doesn't like technology—no Facebook, no iPhone. We imagine she has company in our class! • **Jim Cole** (Littleton, Colo.) maintains contact with **Larry Ring** and **Craig Stewart**. Last summer Jim spent close to a month en route to England to visit an old friend who had retired to the upper Thames River valley; this was followed by a delightful journey to Majorca, Spain. Throughout the journey he enjoyed hiking and gorging on local foods. He particularly was astounded by the affordability of room and board. Jim retired from college teaching a year ago and enthusiastically looks forward to joining us for reunion. • Conversation with **Jim Cole** led us to call **Jim McKeown** in Centennial, Colo., where he and wife Judy moved very quickly in

September to be near their daughters and grandchildren. Our conversation was brief, but we are assured that they will also join us at reunion. • **Bob Clarke** (Longmeadow, Mass.) and wife Holly report being quite healthy. Bob is proud to report success in three areas: 1) as secretary to Western New England University; 2) as Master of the Wilbraham Masonic Lodge; 3) the continued growth of the charity he founded 13 years ago—Western Massachusetts Learning Centers for Children. Its mission is to train public elementary school teachers to become nationally certified as tutors in Orton-Gillingham methods of teaching dyslexic children to read. Bob also maintains contact with our own **Ned Naylor**, who did not graduate with us due to his DUCK journey to South America, which led to graduation in 1964. Upon connecting with Ned, we are assured he will join us for reunion. His journey since leaving in 1961 is wild and very interesting—another very good Middlebury reconnect story. We will leave you in suspense. • **Al** and Susan Stevens '62 **McKibben** (North Ferrisburg, Vt.) attended Susan's 55th last June. They had such a grand time that they too will join us this June. Both Al and Sue this past summer went to great efforts to connect with each of their eight grandchildren individually, exploring their interests. Al and Susan are still in small ways connected to the operations of Lake Champlain Publishing Co. However, Al describes himself as the "maintenance guy," tending houses in Vermont and Rhode Island. • **Kane Phelps** (Pacific Palisades, Calif.) continues his profession as a psychotherapist while pursuing interests in Zen Buddhism and dance as a hobby. He maintains contact with **Stephen Schur**, who is also a psychotherapist, in the San Francisco area. Kane's travels also focus on visits with grandchildren. • **Chuck Savage** (Old Saybrook, Conn.) tells us he has enjoyed skeet shooting, fishing, and jazz piano with **Jackson Kytle** and looks forward to joining us for beer, cigars, and good conversation during Reunion. • In the course of gathering news, we continue to learn of various aging/health issues many of us have had or are in the process of dealing with. The nature of the beast. We certainly encourage all to make efforts to assist one another. Reconnect either one-on-one or by coming to Reunion. There's a lot of discovery in our midst. Eye-to-eye contact helps us find sense among the rapid changes occurring in this fast-paced world. We both look forward to seeing all of you who can make it to our 55th! Do give it a go if at all possible.

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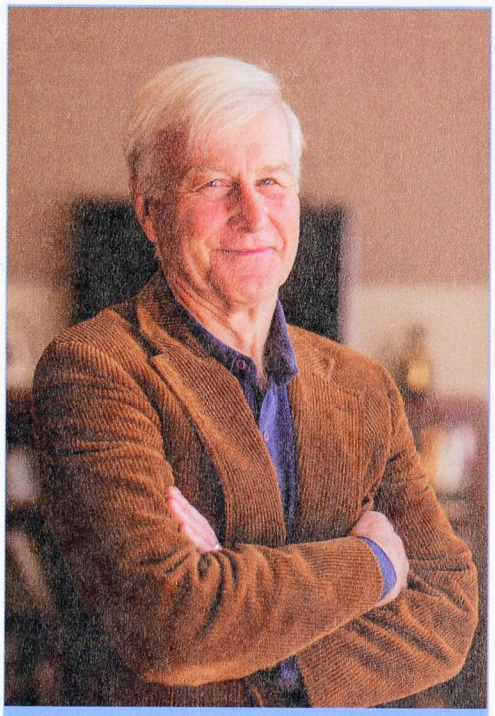
Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: Dogs and cows, dogs and cows. Who comes to your mind? That's right, **Eliot Levinson.** Those are the identifiers I thought of, too, when his name popped up on my email. I had the opportunity to follow up with Eliot and was greatly impressed with his commitment and enthusiasm for the work he and wife Bryna are doing. Eliot and Bryna have been living in rural Virginia and, since selling his company, BLE Group, the educational technology organization he founded and grew, they have been active in their community, are raising beef cows, and most significantly, are training service dogs through Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), the largest nonprofit provider of trained assistance dogs. Established in 1975, CCI provides highly trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. Thanks to donors, there is no charge for the dog, its training, and the ongoing follow-up services, even though those costs can exceed $50,000. Eliot and Bryna voluntarily raise puppies, which are generally crosses between golden and Labrador retrievers, from the time they are eight weeks until one-and-a-half years old, naming them and teaching them basic commands and socialization. Eliot points out that the cross works because goldens are calm and Labradors are focused, important traits in service dogs. They take them (now numbering five) everywhere they go—planes, restaurants, the gym, you name it. After that, they send them to the Canine Companions Northeast Regional Headquarters on Long Island, where the dogs learn over 40 advanced commands over the next six months. CCI trains four types of assistance dogs: service dogs that assist adults with physical disabilities by performing daily tasks; hearing dogs that alert their partners, who are deaf and hard of hearing, to important sounds; facility dogs that work with clients with special needs in a visitation, education, criminal justice or healthcare setting; and skilled companions that enhance independence for children and adults with physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities. Asked how difficult it is to give up the dogs after such close relationships and how that differs from the cows they raise, Eliot says understanding the tremendous benefits the dogs will provide others is the main rationale for the dogs. As for the cows, they never name them and just think of them as future steaks. Now, with more time on his hands having reduced his workload, Eliot plans to supplement his work with these wonderful animals by doing race walking and learning to play the bluegrass fiddle. Really? Is that the Eliot we all remember and love? Never underestimate him. • Correspondent **Dori Ells Jurgenson** reports: Quite a slow news cycle this time! **Ann Messick Dunlevy** wrote in a Christmas letter that they visited Iceland in February, the Azores in April, then Sicily in December—their "year of islands" as she calls it. They also spent the entire summer at their place on the Maine coast, where they spent time with their children and grandchildren. • Also in a Christmas letter, **Linda Wentworth Johnson** reports

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doing a lot of work with her church, making quilts, and spending time with two wonderful granddaughters who live nearby. • Greetings came in from **Rosemary Streeter Bottum**, **Mike Devlin**, and **Alice Taliak Imbur**, all of whom said things were fine and, though they had nothing new to report, they were interested in hearing about my trip to Brazil! Brazil is a fascinating country, better developed than many people may think. The people are gracious and friendly and seem to live with joy. We were in the tropical north, and it was also summer, very warm; the clothes there are very light, often beautiful fabrics. I felt a bit clunky in my prosaic T-shirts! We stayed in the large city of Belo Horizonte in the state of Minas Gerais, which means "general mining"—everything from coal to precious gems. A day trip took us to a charming hill town in the heart of the gem-production district, followed by a two-day journey into a beautiful mountainous national park with several spectacular waterfalls. We then flew to the coastal town of Salvador in Bahia state (air transport is well developed and used more than roads or trains for travel within the country) and spent several days at a beach resort a few miles from the large Tamar Sea Turtle Research Station. Son Mark's girlfriend does research on the turtles, and we were able to visit the museum, see the turtles, and learn what is being done to protect them. Five species of turtle nest along the South American beaches, and they were being hunted to extinction until the research and protection program was begun in the early 1980s. Now nests are spotted and marked, and the public is educated and supportive of protection efforts. The interesting thing is that many more people are now employed in protecting the turtles than were making a living hunting them before—everything from running the museum and research to making T-shirts and literature to promote understanding. The fishermen are now paid to find and mark nests instead of killing the turtles. On our last evening, we found and reported a nest, which the turtle had unwisely made in the middle of a nearby beach resort. At 5:00 the next morning, people from the research station were there carefully removing the eggs—100 in all—and transporting them to the station to incubate in safety, a procedure done rarely and only when in a high-traffic area that can't be protected easily. This is a stunning country, which we might not have thought to choose without invitation, but it turned out to be a wonderful and interesting place to visit.

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## 65

**Melrose Huff** and **Julie Marble Emerson** sadly informed us that we have lost **Elaine Henrici McKay**, a beloved old friend; she passed away at her home in San Pablo Etla, Mexico, where Julie and Mel were able to be with Elaine as she slipped away following a brief, terminal illness. Elaine lived in Japan, taught school in New York City, owned a home in upstate New York, was an amateur birdwatcher and photographer, and for nearly 30 years owned a business that carried "all things Japanese." She retired to Mexico in 2008. • Both **John Wyhof** and **Dexter Blake** died in January. Following Middlebury, John received his master's and PhD in physics from Oklahoma State Univ. He became an expert in the field of reprographics with expertise in copiers, toners, and ink and he held several patents in that industry. His obituary states, "He is remembered by his coworkers, friends, and family for his sense of humor, analytical mind, and curiosity." Dexter received his law degree from Seton Hall and succumbed after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. • After a prolonged absence, **Galen South** writes "I realize I got a lot more from Midd than an education. Midd took a country hillbilly and made a quasi-gentleman of him. Prof. Nelson suggested I spend $15 to apply to the Univ. of Chicago Law School. Best $15 ever spent. Two weeks before comps I realized I had 42 books left to read, so I read in the library, almost around the clock. Got a B and finished in the top quarter of our class. Guess I wasn't a total dummy." I (**"T"**) can only imagine how many of us went through the same ordeal to prepare for those exams. When I explain what "comps" were to today's undergraduates, they only look at me in total disbelief. • **Susan Emrich Bobilin** writes from northwestern Massachusetts, where she is enjoying the environmental loveliness of the area with its clean air and beautiful rivers. • Also in western Massachusetts, **Ellen Andersen Russo** reports her book of poetry was so well received that it is now in its second printing. • The Colorado contingent of classmates has been checking in. **John Riker** continues to teach philosophy at Colorado College, where he will be honored in the fall at Homecoming when he reaches his 50-year mark with the college. He recently published his fifth book, *Exploring the Life of the Soul*. John has also received international recognition and been invited to give papers in many major U.S. cities (including Boston, NYC, and D.C.) in addition to England, Turkey, and Israel. Aside from teaching philosophy (four professor-of-the-year awards!), he and wife Marcia (a Bennington alumna) teach ballroom dancing at the college. They have been blessed with seven grandchildren and spend time with them in Chicago, where John also teaches at the psychoanalytic institute. • **Charles "Chuck" (Benny) Bennett** is settled now in Denver with wife Stelle. For a while everyone in their family was on the move, but now all are establishing themselves in their new communities. Son Nathan, his wife, and their two sons are in Philadelphia, while their daughter, Emily, and her children are living on Sauvie Island in Portland, Ore. Chuck has heard from **Tim Griggs**, who is in Steamboat Springs, Colo. • Next issue will have news of **Sally Brinkmann Blaser** and **Anne Knowlton Farrell**. • **Phil "Nelly" Nelson** and Kathie hosted all their four children, spouses, and grandchildren for the Christmas week. Then they recuperated (and broke up the Northeast winter) with trips to Florida! • In southwest Texas **Joel Gormley** sends news that while Alpine's altitude is good for his health overall, the nearest full-service hospital is 170 miles away. Last spring he had skin cancer removed from his nose, then had to commute on weekends for the entire month of June in order to have radiation treatments—now all is well! (How many of us have had encounters with cancer in the last year?) A new pup keeps him on his toes, and Joel is throwing his energy this year into helping change the political face of their U.S. senator from red to blue. • Also from Texas, **Bruce Gunther** reports he and Hedy celebrated 50 years of marriage in Cabo San Lucas over Christmas with their daughter's family and son Kyle and his partner, who joined them from Vancouver. Bruce and Hedy plan further travels to Switzerland this spring, where they spent their honeymoon skiing many years ago. They also plan to visit with Hedy's family in Bern, Zurich, and the Alps. • **Alix Warga Taylor** and husband Rich '64 have downsized to a townhouse in Lincoln, Mass., where they overlook a pond. They celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2017, Rich retired, and they celebrated with a road trip through all the flyover states that their other travels have missed. Rich continues with his avid cycling passion and charity rides, while Alix is still an avid duplicate bridge player, traveling to sectional tournaments in New England and to regional and national tournaments as time allows. But the best news, and what will keep Rich and Alix happily traveling, is that daughter Laura and her husband are the delighted parents of little Felix, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, last fall. Both parents are university professors in Ireland.

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## 66

**Nancy McMullin Fischer** emailed to let us know that **Rick Mills** had died suddenly in November of a heart attack while on a hike. She and Rick had been classmates back in high school in Pennsylvania. Rick began his career in education at the Dalton School in New York City and in 1971 joined with a group of teachers to found the Elizabeth Seeger School. In 1975, he went to work for the New Jersey Education Dept. in Trenton. In 1984, he became education aide to Gov. Thomas Kean. He was chosen as the Commissioner of Education for Vermont and served there until 1995 when he became Commissioner of Education for New York State. He retired in 2009. As many of you know, Rick loved the outdoors, especially hiking, camping, and canoeing in the Adirondacks. He was a faithful member of Christ Community Reformed Church of Clifton Park, N.Y. •

Then, more sad news arrived. We also learned of the death of **Joyce Smith Mills** in November. Both **Holly Hartley** and **Shirley Frobes** wrote to let us know. Joyce's two daughters and their families were with her when she died, as was Shirley. Joyce had been diagnosed with endometrial (uterine) cancer in April and was in Houston looking into clinical trials. She "was as upbeat as possible" when Holly spoke to her in September. Holly said that she had recently reread what Joyce wrote about herself for our 50th reunion yearbook. "It was quite lovely," Holly said, "and I think she achieved her wish." Joyce began her career in human resources at Harvard and later in life found fulfillment helping people as a financial planner. She was a member of the Winchester, Mass., First Congregational Church for nearly 40 years. According to her obituary, "her curiosity abounded—she was rarely found without *The Economist* or a book, and she enjoyed an eclectic range of music, dance, fine arts, and global travel." • Whether the news is sad or happy, we appreciate hearing from classmates. **Kitty Grant Galaitsis** sent us a review of a book by the daughter of Doug '68 and **Kathy Baker Worden**, Elise Worden Hooper '96. It's called *The Other Alcott*, and is a novel about May Alcott, Louisa's sister, who became the basis for the character Amy March in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Coincidentally, a member of **Francine Clark Page**'s book club suggested reading *The Other Alcott* in January as it's now out in paperback and has become a best seller. Kitty and husband Tony have known Elise since she was a baby and are delighted that she is working on a second book. • Because her daughter Elizabeth '95 flew out from New Mexico for a November Mischords and Dissipated Eight reunion, **Francine** had the good fortune to discover that **Kitty Galaitsis** was a founding member, along with **Sue Bunce Stearns**, of the Mischords. Kitty even came up with the name—Misschords—after a singing group she founded in high school. The 50th reunion concert was wonderful, and Kitty's appearance on stage with other Mischords from the '60s began a conversation about other original members in our class. Since there was no photo of the group in our 1966 yearbook, Francine skimmed the activity lists below senior photos. The following were also among those pioneering singers: **Ginny Fox Mast**, **Carolyn Holmes**, **Dedee Kepple O'Neil**, **Judy Rowe Michaels**, **Carole Steere**, and **Carol Sue Tarbox Tombari**. If we missed anyone, please let us know! • Francine was also pleased to be in the bleachers on November 4 to hear about **Fred Beams**'s induction into Middlebury's Athletics Hall of Fame. As many of you know, Fred was a standout lacrosse and football player: "A 1966 lacrosse All-American, he earned All-New England honors three times for the Panthers, leading the team to a 10-0-2 record during his junior season. Beams was the school's all-time leader in goals and assists at the time of his graduation. On the gridiron, Beams led the team in rushing as a junior and senior, twice earning All-Vermont honors. He was also a member of ECAC All-East College Division squad his junior year." • Finally, don't forget that the Middlebury Women of 1966 Mini-Reunion is scheduled for June 4–9. If you're interested in a bit of hiking and good conversation, please contact **Susan Hellier** (gallatna@aol.com), 406-763-4732; **Linda Ramsay de Kort** (dekort@montanasky.com), 406-755-3704; or **Sharon Weston Sutherland** (sharisuth@charter.net), 406-388-1545. Any woman from the Class of '66 is welcome to join and must contact Susan, Linda, or Sharon as soon as possible for additional information. • See page 84 for a photo of a group of KDRs who got together for a mini-reunion.

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Congratulations to **Edwin Alexander**! On November 19, 2017, Edwin was ordained a priest in the Independent Anglican Church of Canada. At his ordination, the Reverend Andrew Nussey likened Edwin to a shepherd whose sheep hear his voice. Says Nussey, "Edwin loves to tell stories. And Edwin has taught me that, if you listen, you might just hear your own story hanging off the lips of another. How universal, indeed, is the human condition; how closely, indeed, are we connected; if only we can know it." Edwin's path to the priesthood has provided him a rich diversity of experiences, studies, and professions, and this serves him well in his ministry at the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin in Hamilton, Ontario. **Karen Unsworth**, who has stayed in touch with Edwin since our 25th reunion, has said how very interesting Edwin's life has been. Edwin, the storyteller, has much to draw on. He has some religious family roots, too. His great-times-four grandfather, Jacob Peck, was a charter member in the Cornwall Congregational Church in Vermont. And his great-uncle Dean Ellenwood was a Unitarian minister. Online, Edwin uses his photography for meditations, quoting the poet Rilke: "Be alert for any sign of beauty or grace. Offer up every joy, be awake at all moments to 'the news that is always arriving out of silence.'" At our 50th reunion, during the class "show and tell" session, **Barbara McEvoy Sepe Bentley** displayed a few of the clerical stoles she has made. Edwin later contacted her about making some for him, and he's now equipped with six stoles, each of different liturgical colors, one of which he wore at his ordination. Also having seen Barbara's stoles at reunion, **Beverly Fead Leys** sent her a delightful booklet about the chasubles (nifty clerical garments) that Matisse designed for the chapel, also of his design, in Vence, France, which Beverly and her husband **George** visited in September 2017. Little did Beverly know when sending the booklet that Edwin's request for chasubles would arrive on its heels via email to

Look Back. Plan Ahead.

"I gave rather minimally to Middlebury over the years. But I was able to make a large (for me) gift on the occasion of our 50th Reunion by setting up a gift annuity. **My Middlebury experience has enriched my life enormously, and for that I am grateful."**

—Barbara McEvoy Sepe Bentley '67, MA French '68, MA Spanish '87

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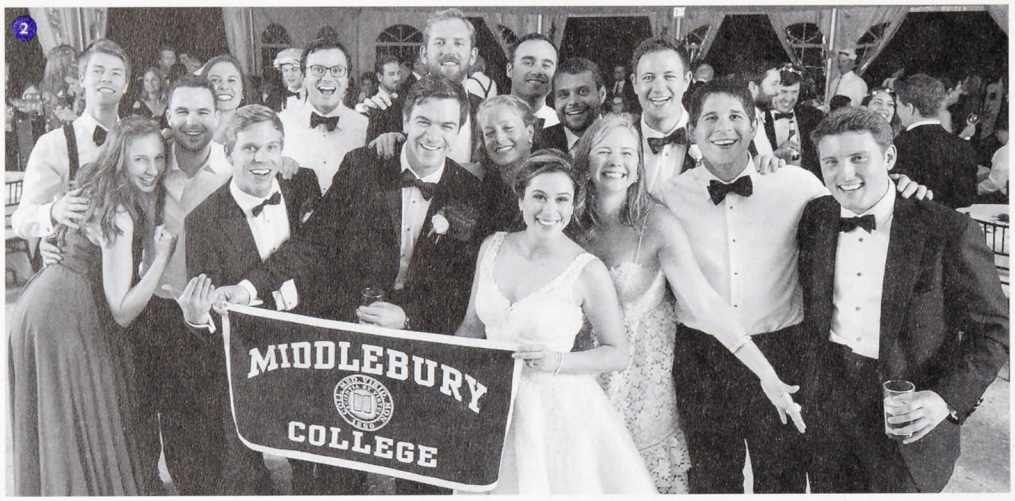
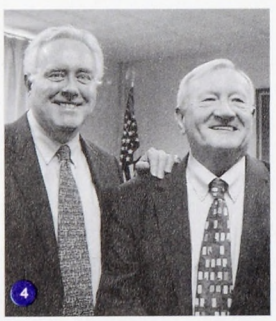



1 Sarah Harris '11 married Joseph Andriano at Scott Farm in Dummerston, Vt., on June 10, 2017. Midd friends and family in attendance included Sue Kavanagh (advancement), Carla Cevasco '11, Alex Oberg '10, bride's great-uncle John Mooney '51 (seated), Bill McKibben (Schumann Distinguished Scholar), Sue Halpern (scholar in residence), Marcy Kent '80, Kate Mooney Harris '80, the newlyweds, Chris Shaw (English and American literatures), Lark Endean Nierenberg '11, Beth Mooney Longcope '79, Elissa Bullion '10, and Xian Chiang-Waren '11. 2 In an outdoor ceremony, Patch Culbertson '08 and Jennifer Smith were married on June 3, 2017, at Woodlawn-Pope Leighey House in Alexandria, Va. They danced the night away with Middlebury friends (all '08 unless noted) Mallory Hicks Walker, Drew Walker, Robbie de Picciotto, the newlyweds, Laura Lee Mittelman, Andy Mittelman, Hunter Chamberlain '12, (second row) Joel Simpson, Chrissy Fulton, Ben Hanna, Pat Cunningham, John Lanahan, Elyse McNiff, Chandler Koglmeier '09, and Matt Boucher.



3 Middlebury alumni met up at the Fourth of July celebration at the Ridge Club in Sandwich, Mass.: Jane Nettles Nagle '90, Corinne Nagle Strianese '48, (second row) Carolyn Stewart Birbiglia '97, and Joe Birbiglia '97. 4 Stewart Brann and Ron Najman '69 were married by the mayor of Warwick, N.Y., on January 31, 2017, 20 years after they met. 5 The 2030 Districts Network Summit in San Francisco was the location of a chance meeting between Midd alums John Beeson '97, Eleanor Johnstone '10, and Dave Low '93.

Barbara. The result of this happy coincidence? Edwin will soon have chasubles of different colors à la Bentley via Matisse, thanks to Beverly.

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**REUNION CLASS** Many thanks to all who responded to our plea for news! We received a lot but are looking forward to Reunion when we can exchange our thoughts in person. From **John Allen** we heard, "Would anyone care to join me for a bike ride during Reunion?" He's working as technical writer and editor on bicycle repair and maintenance and teaches bicycle handling and road skills in the program of the American Bicycling Education organization. • **Ted Heffernan** says, "I would like to attend Reunion just to see some of the old gang from the fifth floor of Hepburn." • **Ned Harding** recently completed *Sketches in Quantitative Finance,* the first English translation of an old French text of historical significance, published by Louis Bachelier in 1914. Bachelier gained fame after his death for his original modeling of random movements in stock markets and this particular work investigates the nature of randomness and the calculation probabilities in financial markets, games of chance, and other real-world applications. A hardcover copy of Ned's book was delivered to the Middlebury library, and an open access version is available online at Kismet. • **Jan Ells** reports, "I'm planning to go to Reunion. I hope a lot of people will come. We're off to see our great-granddaughter in New Orleans. We can't be that old! We went to Africa last August and saw tons of animals with the best saved for last: We were able to walk with the mountain gorillas in Rwanda. It was a peak experience and I highly recommend it." • **Linda Burley** says, "Now that I'm fully retired from a two-year consulting stint, when I'm not at home in Maine skiing, shoveling snow, kayaking, or playing golf, I'm traveling. I hiked parts of the Scottish Highlands and Isle of Skye last September with 10 friends, and I returned in time to celebrate Christmas after a three-week cruise around New Zealand and stops in Sydney and Melbourne. This April I'm planning to be on a riverboat, floating through parts of Holland and Belgium. A road trip to some National Parks is in the planning stages for May and of course, I'm looking forward to our 50th reunion in June." • **Julie Gratiot Peterson** is another traveler and hiker: "Last October my husband and I drove to the shores of Lake Superior in the very western part of the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan. It was the peak of fall colors. We hiked in the nearby Porcupine Mountains and saw many, many spectacular waterfalls. We also explored the Keweenaw Peninsula of the UP. I'd discovered Gratiot River and Gratiot Lake on the Michigan map, done a little advance research, and learned that they were named for my great-

great-great-uncle Charles Gratiot, who was chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and agent of the Lake Superior Copper Company in the mid-1800s. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our 50th in June!" • **Susan Caughman** and **Marilyn Simon Margon**, along with husbands **Gerry Goodrich** and Arthur Margon, met for a New Year's brunch of hoppin' John (for good luck in 2018—we need it) in Susan's apartment on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. Susan and Marilyn, Battell floormates from freshman year 54 years ago, mused about time passing, the meaning of life, and finding something to give them a hearty laugh in the New Year. "Hoping to continue this discussion with our classmates in June. Funny people, please come to Reunion with laughs." • On January 1, 2016, **Bob Kelman** retired from the law firm of MayerBrown after 44 years, six months, and two weeks of practice as a corporate tax partner. "My wife and I have lived in Chicago during my entire tenure at the law firm but we took delivery of a new boat last fall in Charleston, S.C., and traveled a bit on the Intracoastal Waterway before having the boat delivered to Lake Michigan. I don't miss the stress of big law firm practice one iota and am happy having zero professional responsibilities. It's amazing how I can fill my day doing pretty much nothing." • **Bob Friedman** writes, "I'm still working more than part time doing medical care on the psychiatry patients in a local hospital. This is the same place that was a general hospital when I first went into practice in 1979 so I'm back where I started. The best part of the job is that I have an office-based opioid therapy clinic, where I have my own patients who I really get to know and can help with their addiction issues. I'm seeing that so many of them became addicted to opioids after having medical problems. I have plenty of time off to pursue hobbies such as photography and playing pool. Also I have a spin bike and that keeps me in shape for my annual Pan Mass Challenge bike ride from Sturbridge to Provincetown to benefit Dana Farber. Last year we raised 51 million dollars in the weekend ride and my personal total in 17 years is over $325,000. Our son and two grandchildren, ages 9 and 12, moved away to Chicago but our musician son and his girlfriend have a seven-month-old boy and they live only an hour away so that keeps us busy. We will be coming to the Reunion—may have to bring my bike to stay in shape for the big ride in early August." • **Larry Raffel** says, "I will be on a sailing trip in the Greek islands so I'm sorry to say I will not be attending the 50th reunion." • **Gail Hyde** and husband Alan traveled to Asheville, N.C., in January to help celebrate Gail's father's 98th birthday. He's still living independently but in a retirement community with staggered care if he should need it. Gail is wondering if other members of the Class of '68 still have living parents—and would be interested in chatting about parental "issues" at Reunion. • Finally, we must end with the sad news that **Jean Dithmar Myer** passed away in December. She enjoyed a successful career at IBM and was always a great role model for women in a traditionally male world. In 1988 she joined a sailing crew in the Boston area and the crew became her extended family. After retiring in 2000, Jean spent most of her time racing competitively. She crossed the Atlantic eight times and the Pacific twice, and sailed many other seas and oceans. Jean will be remembered as a woman whose genuine charm and amazing vitality were the essence of her humanity.

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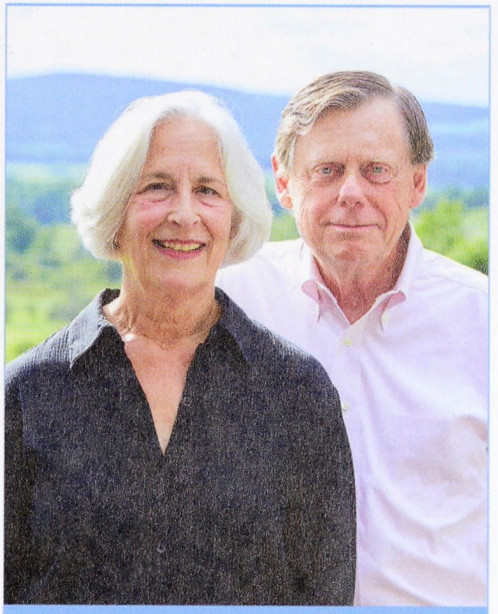
**Ron Najman** sent good news: "Stewart Brann (Univ. of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism '77) and I were married on a snowy day last January, on the 20th anniversary of the day we met. The mayor of Warwick, N.Y., an adjacent town, presided, with two friends as witnesses who then took us out to lunch at a very nice Italian restaurant." See a photo on the opposite page. • And on a sad note, at the time of this writing, we became aware of the loss of another esteemed classmate. A headline at Vtdigger.org read "Vermont Law School Mourns Professor Emeritus **Gil Kujovich**, Civil Rights Leader and Legal Scholar." Two of our classmates, both retired attorneys, offer their personal perspectives. **Fran Chin** writes, "What a life Gil led! Clerking for a U.S. Court of Appeals judge and two U.S. Supreme Court justices (Potter Stewart and Byron White)—especially those three—makes him a rock star! He was a leader in progressive causes, too. Why didn't I know this? Did anyone know about this? He should have been invited to Middlebury to talk about what he did multiple times. Students would have been inspired." • **Jamie Johnson Fitzgerald** says, "I'll always be grateful to Gil for turning down the National Honor Scholarship for a student from Middlebury going to the Univ. of Chicago Law School. He opted for Harvard instead. They finally had to give it to me. Can't remember who it was, but someone among the powers that be who was awarding the scholarship told me the committee thought I might drop out of law school, because I was also getting married after graduating Midd." Fran remembers Gil's freshman roommates in Painter as **Kevin Ducey** and **Charles Perry**. What impactful careers came out of that room. • Most of that information comes out of an Internet grouping of our class agents. Fostered by **David Dodge**, it has become an informal—and engaging—forum for discussions about our upcoming 50th as well as current College and national incidents. (**Anne** and I, **Peter**, participate as class correspondents, so if you hear from either of us, we are asking only for your stories.) The insights that come from a group who passed through the late '60s in one place and over the subsequent five decades have engaged in a variety of experiences are enlighten-

Look Back. Plan Ahead.

"Middlebury reflects 50 years of shared experiences and deep friendships, so our connection is very personal. We're making two gifts to support first-generation students—one to fund an annual scholarship and the other through a bequest for financial aid. **Setting up a planned gift has been very satisfying. It's great to be able to help current and future students."**

—David '69 and Magna Leffler Dodge '68

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ing. Such an exchange from the variety of perspectives bodes well for the interactions we anticipate in June of 2019. We hope you all will see Reunion as another growth opportunity and come to share thoughts and opinions with your classmates.

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**Reed Coughlan** writes, "Jackie and I enjoyed a lovely seaside dinner with **George Contaratos** and wife Helen in Alyki in early October. Alyki is a fishing village on the Cycladic island of Paros, Greece. George has a family home there and introduced us to this idyllic spot in the world more than 10 years ago. We have visited the island every year since and have staged mini Midd reunions whenever we are all in residence. George sends his warm regards and would love to meet up with other classmates in Athens, where he lives most of the year, or on his ancestral isle of Paros in July and August."

*—Class Correspondents: Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com); Nancy Crawford (ncrawford_sutcliffe@comcast.net).*

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We caught up with **Joanna Mintzer** by phone from her home in Dorset, Vt., after learning of a radio broadcast last fall in which she was featured participating in a roundtable discussion on the topic of authoritarianism. Hosted by the New York-based media channel A Better World, the discussion was led by Mitchell Rabin, the founder of A Better World, who invited Joanna and husband Donald Ferrell, a Christian theologian and practicing Jungian psychoanalyst, to participate in the discussion. Drawing on conditions in pre-Nazi Germany and on concepts presented in the 2017 book *On Tyranny*, by Timothy Snyder, the presenters explored society's relationship to authority and how we might learn from history in an age where democracy seems once again to be facing the challenge of totalitarianism. After majoring in history and art history at Middlebury, Joanna earned advanced degrees from Antioch New England Graduate School of Education and from Andover Newton Theological School, and was mentored by Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel. As a lecturer and educator in the interdisciplinary fields of Jungian depth psychology, religion, and the arts, she draws upon painting, poetry, the spiritual insights of both Jewish and Christian traditions, Holocaust testimony, and post-Holocaust literature and theology in her approach to spirituality and the problem of meaning. About her years at Middlebury, Joanna says, "I gravitated toward the hippie mindset at that time. Middlebury gave me the intellectual foundation and flexibility to grow into the person I was only dimly conscious of becoming. I continue to struggle with questions of meaning in a post-Auschwitz age." • **Cyndy Bronson Altman** writes, "For many years, I have been the curator for Kykuit, the Rockefeller home near Tarrytown, N.Y., which is now a National Trust site. The collections range from 20th-century sculpture to Chinese ceramics and carriages; the gardens include a Japanese garden and teahouse, where we often host tea ceremonies. The work and research continue to be varied and endlessly fascinating. I live about 10 miles away on the Hudson, and should move, but sorting things out is never easy. My daughter lives near Wilmington, Del., and I am often on the road to visit—especially since the arrival of Julia, who is almost 18 months old. I keep in touch with **Susan Fritsch Hunter** and **Anne Lahey Kehl,** and try not to miss **Diana Fanning**'s concerts in Middlebury. I also occasionally hear from **Helena Robbins James** and **Elsa Parrington Desrochers**, and also Lizbeth Simmons Earwood '70." • A quick note came from **Louis "Spider" Mills**: "I retired from 16 years as associate professor in landscape architecture at Texas Tech Univ. in Lubbock in June 2017. I'm still active as a design consultant; landscape designs for small urban spaces walls and roof gardens is my focus and passion (check out my website, spidermil.com). I bought a house in West Seattle in 2013 and now make it my full-time home. A few Middlebury folks in the area I have made contact with include Joe McNulty '72 and **Tom Scribner** (from Seattle, but lives in Portland, Ore.), and a few others in the hinterlands around Puget Sound. Skiing, rugby, BBQ, tennis, and hiking are still my passions, and this area is superb for all these endeavors. Hope to see y'all shortly in Middlebury for a reunion, football, or hockey game, or in the middle of a great powder day at Sugarbush." • Finally, a report from **Jay Goyette** on the passing of one of our stalwarts: "What do you say about a friend who dies? Much was said about **Howard Neil Verman** on Sunday, January 14, at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School, where Howie and his wife, Katherine, and their two sons, Stephen and William, spent so much of their lives together. Howie, as we all knew and loved him, died January 2, after battling a deadly form of brain cancer, glioblastoma. When he died, he was with his son, William, and his best friend of many, many years, **Jeffrey Rand**. Jeff and Howie were, in today's parlance, a kind of 'brand.' They were a 'one.' Howie's memorial was the comforting event that everyone there needed. 'He loved people,' Jeffrey said. 'He loved his friends from Middlebury College.' They included **Karen Lindsay Palmer**; **Richardson 'Taxi' Smith**; **Peter Quinn** and Marian Greenberg; Pam and **Bruce Foust**; **Sandy McDowell**; **Sanford Farrier** and wife Karen; me and my beloved wife, **Emily** (**Groom**); **John Baker**, and others who would have wanted to be there but couldn't be (**Brent Seabrook** and **John 'Doc' Lawson** among them). **Doc Lawson** sent three pages of Howie memories, many of which are unpublishable, of course, but here are some of his memories from freshman year: 'Howie lived on the second floor of Hepburn with **Mark Gillispie** and the late **Fred Corliss**. He had a pet owl named Otis who lived there, too. His best friend from Horace Mann, also a freshman, was **Dick Sheckman**.' One of Howie's best fishing buddies, **David Koret,** wrote, 'I'm so sorry I can't be there with so many of the people who mean the most to Howie and Katherine. It would do me great good to feel the strength of your collective love. But, as we have all individually experienced over the years when circumstance keeps us away from one another, I will derive great comfort from knowing that you are all together and exactly what that space will feel like as you hug and cry and share Howie stories. For me, this memorial service will be a daily event as long as I breathe.' Howie's memorial was uplifting. A few tears of joy, maybe, but lots of talk about how he loved to fish; how much he loved his kids and others'. He was an elementary school principal in Huntington, Vt., and later an advisor to college-bound students throughout Vermont, New England, and beyond. Here are a few random notes from what was said at the memorial gathering: Howie always considered his brain one of his least important organs. His best organ was his heart, and he wore his heart on his sleeve. He wasn't afraid to wear pink. He made you feel like you were the only one in the room. He had an ability to see things in people that they couldn't see in themselves. He was a gorgeous human being. My own favorite memory of Howie was that last hug. Long and hard. Nothing said. And we both knew it would be the last one."

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**Michael Reed** writes, "I'm now living in Vicksburg, Mich., in the southwestern part of the state. My two daughters, Rachel (22) and Maureen (18), live in nearby Kalamazoo. After 10 years of labor and learning, I'm close to perhaps having my novel published. It is set in 1969 'Kota' (Gabon), Africa, and concerns Skye, a 17-year-old hippie chick who is my double. Title of the novel is *African Skye*." • **Kathy Mulligan Lord** sent the good news that on June 24, 2017, she married Tony Flaherty at the Joppa Flats Audubon Center in Newburyport, Mass., with many Midd friends and family helping to celebrate! See a photo on page 79. • We're sorry to report that **John Thomas "JT" Moore** passed away on December 3, 2017, after a six-month battle with cancer. He grew up in Pennsylvania and was active throughout his early years in the family poultry business, Moore Farms. He developed a love of baseball and was a loyal Philadelphia Phillies fan. When he moved to Boston, he of course switched his allegiance to the Red Sox! After Middlebury, JT received an MBA from Boston University School of Management and began his career as a service manager at the Filenes in Boston. This was punctuated by a stint as a flight attendant on Pan

### ARABIC SCHOOL

The Rev. **Leyla Kamilick King** ('03, '04), a full-time priest in the Episcopal Church, is a visiting professor at Sewanee: The University of the South, teaching Arabic. Sewanee does not have an Arabic program, so she is a part of the International and Global Studies Dept. • Sadly, we learned that Yasmine Ryan ('13) died on November 29, 2017. A well-respected journalist, she was working as a freelance reporter in the Middle East and died in Istanbul, Turkey. She had previously worked for the *New York Times* and *Al Jazeera*.

### BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

In January **Maggie Favretti** (MA '94) was honored with the Thomas Sobel Award for Service to the Community in Scarsdale, N.Y. A social studies teacher at Scarsdale High School, she is known for her scholarship, intellect, and indefatigable energy in designing courses, writing publications, and connecting students to real-world outcomes. • *The Beloved Wild* by **Melissa Ostrom** (MA '00) was published by Macmillan in March. It's her Young Adult debut. Her short fiction has appeared in the *Baltimore Review*, the *Florida Review*, *Quarter After Eight*, and *YARN*, among other journals, and she has a second novel forthcoming from Macmillan in 2019. • **Trixie Sabundayo** (MA '02), an English teacher, department chair, senior administrator, and coach at Marin Academy in San Rafael, Calif., for the past 13 years, was recently named the new head of the upper school at Princeton (N.J.) Day School. She will begin her position as of July 1. She and husband **Josh Frechette** (MA '02) have children Teaghan (6) and Quinlyn (18 mos.). • **Dave Patterson** (MA '08) recently sold his novel, *Soon the Light Will Be Perfect*, to Hanover Square Press, an imprint of HarperCollins. The book was also picked up by Aryeh Nir Publishing for release in Israel. The novel is forthcoming in the spring of 2019.

### BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA '86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH

**Judy Ellis Scales-Trent** (MA '67) writes, "After receiving my MA, I taught French to high school students and to Peace Corps trainees who would soon be working in Francophone Africa. But I was teaching in the '60s, when people were being jailed for protesting segregation, black churches were being bombed, and cities were burning. It was a time when French verbs seemed strikingly irrelevant, so I went to law school to become a civil rights lawyer. After receiving a JD from Northwestern, I practiced law with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for 12 years. During that period, as I read cases and thought about the law, I discovered legal issues that interested and puzzled me. This led me to a career as a law school professor. During my 25 years as a professor, I published over 20 scholarly articles about civil rights issues, as well as book reviews, essays, and poetry. I have also published two books: the award-winning biography of my grandfather, *A Black Man's Journey from Sharecropper to College President: The Life and Work of William Johnson Trent, 1873–1963* (2016), and *Notes of a White Black Woman: Race, Color, Community* (1995). Interestingly enough, my facility with French was helpful in my professional life. At the request of the State Department, I have given talks on American law in French in Quebec and Dakar, Senegal; I conducted research in France on immigrant African women in that country; and during a Fulbright year in Dakar (2000–2001), I taught law school and conducted research on Senegalese women lawyers in French. I have also published an article on American immigration law in French." • The Rev. **Ellen-Jo Emerson** (MA '73) writes, "I'm happy to report that in late December, my book *Psalmistry: Reflections of Praise*, was published by WestBow Press. It's a book of 366 personal psalm poems, one for each day of the year (yes, including Leap Day), available from the publisher or Amazon. After graduating with my MA, I went on to work for several French companies (Renault, Peugeot Citroën Engines, and Unifrance Film), and for a worldwide biotech manufacturer while attending New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Now an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America (RCA), I pastor a church in Brooklyn, work at a nonprofit interfaith agency called Project Hospitality in Staten Island, and serve as clerk for the central New Jersey regional group of RCA churches. Still fluent in French, I occasionally freelance translation and editing projects. Publishing my book is the joyful culmination of a process that began about a dozen years ago." • When the soccer club of Montpellier, France, ordered soccer jerseys last fall, they came back with the city misspelled as Montpelier. Rather than throwing them out, the mayor offered them to the Montpelier (Vt.) High School soccer team. In a televised ceremony to officially thank the city of Montpellier, **Michael Martin** (MA '93), director of curriculum and technology for the Montpelier school system, gave a formal message of thanks in French. • A former prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, **Kan Nawaday** (MA '00) recently joined the law firm Venable in their New York office.

### ITALIAN SCHOOL

**Carmelo Greco** (MA '73) sent these memories: "I loved my 1972 Italian School summer graduate program and the 1972–73 Italian program in Florence. My wife and two children, ages three and two, quickly became bilingual by attending Scuola Peter Pan. The weekend arts and history outings were absolutely fantastic. Our director, Giulia Mazzuoli, a professor of German history and language at the University of Florence, was outstanding. Prof. Mazzuoli made a turkey and stuffing available and my wife cooked it for the students at the headquarters, a.k.a. *Sede*, to give students a home feel for Thanksgiving. I contributed an article in the Florence newspaper, *La Nazione*, about foreign students' lives in Florence. The summer school master's and doctoral programs are great because in the various language programs the professors are first rate! Aside from academics, the soccer games between the different schools are as good as the World Cup games! The great rivals at that time were the Spanish and Italian Schools." • Leaving a position as sales director and operations manager for a bike tour company, **Rosemary Mondo** (MA '11) launched Via Mondo, a full-service travel agency and tour company that focuses on health tourism with wellness-focused accommodations and amenities.

### MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

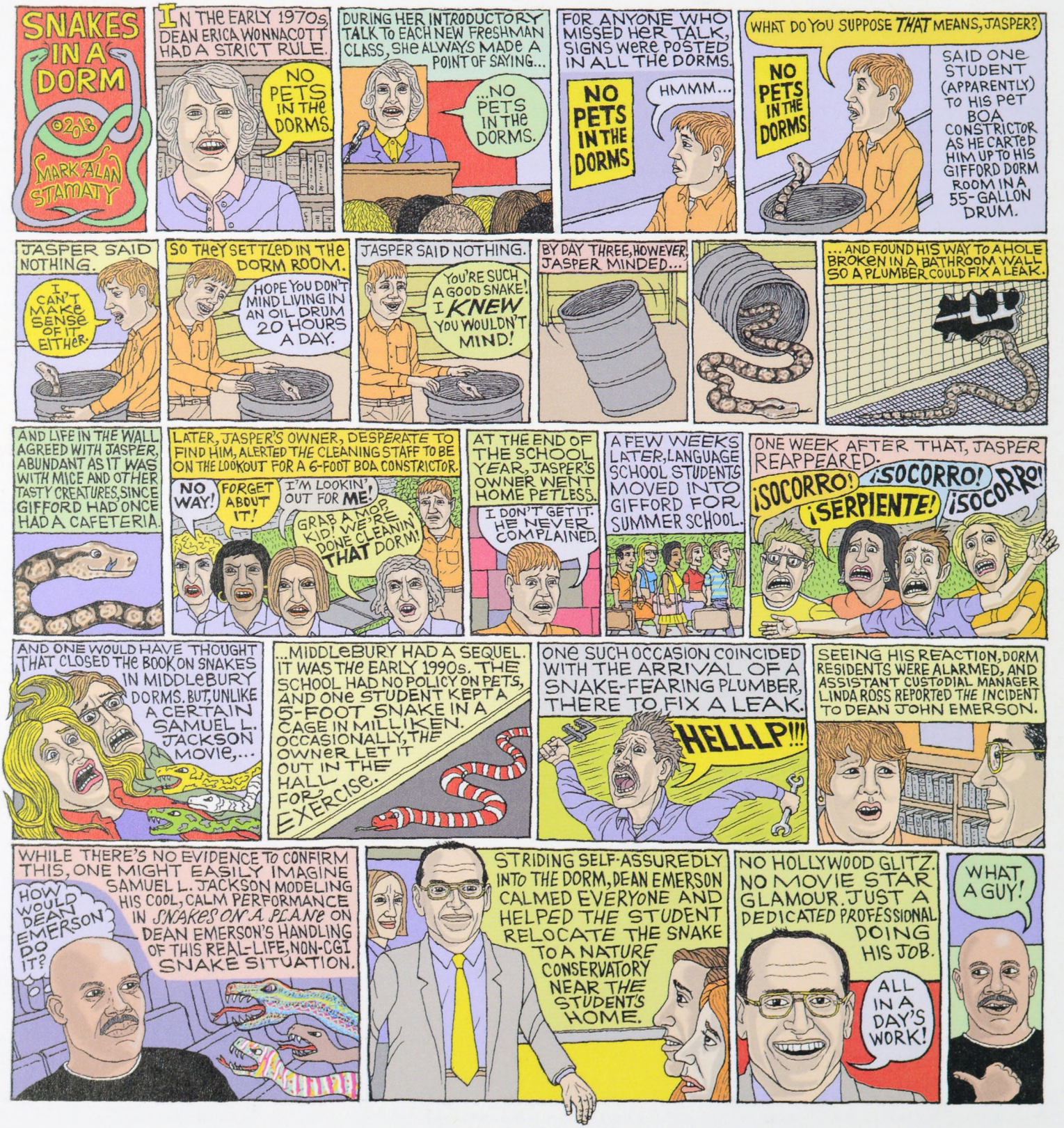
Profiled for the fall issue of *Communiqué*, the Institute newsletter, **Maame Afon Yelbert-Sai** (MAIPS '05) began by saying, "Don't ask me what I am doing, but ask me what I am being. I am a human being, not a human doing." She is passionate about being what she calls a "whole woman"—bringing all of who she is to everything she does. She directs programs and partnerships for the Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa and sits on the boards of the African Women's Development Fund-USA, We Care Solar, Ghana Bamboo Bikes, and Cocoa 360. In 2009, she was working at the Global Fund for Women in San Francisco when she was invited to participate in the Women Leaders for the World leadership program. She was asked to think about her passions and her voice. The capstone was to come up with a project that would make a difference for women in leadership. She says, "Be bold, daring, and intentional about the choices you make. Recognize that your leadership is a journey, a process that continues to be refined as you go through life." • In a class on water conservation, the idea for Urbavore was developed and **Janna Ratzlaff** (MAIEP '15), **Kenji Tabery** (MAIEP '16), **Hesham AlSaati** (MBA/MAIEP '17), and **Flynn Pollard** (MPA/MAIEP '17) are the team behind the ag-tech start-up. Urbavore, which aims to market low-cost, highly efficient home garden systems that are designed to both improve food security and reduce the environmental impact of food production, won the Best Start-Up Idea at the AgTech Summit in 2016. They have been accepted into the Santa Cruz Works accelerator program and have a partnership with people at UC Santa Cruz to beta test their prototype system.

### SPANISH SCHOOL

**Teresa Boucher** (MA '88, MA French '89) recently published her translation of *Love Letters from a Voluptuous Sexagenarian* by Miguel Delibes with Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs. She is a professor of Spanish at Boise State Univ. and has published several articles and book reviews. • **Brooke Mead** (MA '05) is the director of the Berkshire Immigrant Center in Massachusetts. Formerly a high school Spanish teacher, she has lived in Mexico and Venezuela and, having been an immigrant herself, has the cultural understanding and sensitivity to work with the immigrant and refugee population. • The New Jersey Dept. of Education chose **Marc Russell** (MA '11) as a 2017 New Jersey Exemplary Secondary Educator. He has been a faculty member at High Point Regional High School since 2006 and has demonstrated exceptional teaching and leadership abilities. • Yoga instructor **Alissa Gamberg** (MA '15) was one of only nine people to participate in a 200-hour yoga teacher training in Spanish, the first of its kind to ever be held in the U.S. She earned her certificate from the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health and Rina Yoga.

# Snakes in a Dorm

*Find out what happens when a slithery pet gets loose in a Middlebury dorm!*


SNAKES IN A DORM
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MARK ALAN STAMATY
IN THE EARLY 1970s, DEAN ERICA WONNACOTT HAD A STRICT RULE.
NO PETS IN THE DORMS.
DURING HER INTRODUCTORY TALK TO EACH NEW FRESHMAN CLASS, SHE ALWAYS MADE A POINT OF SAYING...
...NO PETS IN THE DORMS.
FOR ANYONE WHO MISSED HER TALK, SIGNS WERE POSTED IN ALL THE DORMS.
NO PETS IN THE DORMS
HMMM...
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT MEANS, JASPER?
NO PETS IN THE DORMS
SAID ONE STUDENT (APPARENTLY) TO HIS PET BOA CONSTRICTOR AS HE CARTED HIM UP TO HIS GIFFORD DORM ROOM IN A 55-GALLON DRUM.
JASPER SAID NOTHING.
I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF IT EITHER.
SO THEY SETTLED IN THE DORM ROOM.
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND LIVING IN AN OIL DRUM 20 HOURS A DAY.
JASPER SAID NOTHING.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD SNAKE! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T MIND!
BY DAY THREE, HOWEVER, JASPER MINDED...
... AND FOUND HIS WAY TO A HOLE BROKEN IN A BATHROOM WALL SO A PLUMBER COULD FIX A LEAK.
AND LIFE IN THE WALL AGREED WITH JASPER, ABUNDANT AS IT WAS WITH MICE AND OTHER TASTY CREATURES, SINCE GIFFORD HAD ONCE HAD A CAFETERIA.
LATER, JASPER'S OWNER, DESPERATE TO FIND HIM, ALERTED THE CLEANING STAFF TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A 6-FOOT BOA CONSTRICTOR.
NO WAY!
FORGET ABOUT IT!
I'M LOOKIN' OUT FOR ME!
GRAB A MOP, KID! WE'RE DONE CLEANIN' THAT DORM!
AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, JASPER'S OWNER WENT HOME PETLESS.
I DON'T GET IT. HE NEVER COMPLAINED.
A FEW WEEKS LATER, LANGUAGE SCHOOL STUDENTS MOVED INTO GIFFORD FOR SUMMER SCHOOL.
ONE WEEK AFTER THAT, JASPER REAPPEARED.
¡SOCORRO!
¡SOCORRO!
¡SERPIENTE!
¡SOCORRO!
AND ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT CLOSED THE BOOK ON SNAKES IN MIDDLEBURY DORMS. BUT, UNLIKE A CERTAIN SAMUEL L. JACKSON MOVIE,...
...MIDDLEBURY HAD A SEQUEL. IT WAS THE EARLY 1990s. THE SCHOOL HAD NO POLICY ON PETS, AND ONE STUDENT KEPT A 5-FOOT SNAKE IN A CAGE IN MILLIKEN. OCCASIONALLY, THE OWNER LET IT OUT IN THE HALL FOR EXERCISE.
ONE SUCH OCCASION COINCIDED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A SNAKE-FEARING PLUMBER, THERE TO FIX A LEAK.
HELLLP!!!
SEEING HIS REACTION, DORM RESIDENTS WERE ALARMED, AND ASSISTANT CUSTODIAL MANAGER LINDA ROSS REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO DEAN JOHN EMERSON.
WHILE THERE'S NO EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THIS, ONE MIGHT EASILY IMAGINE SAMUEL L. JACKSON MODELING HIS COOL, CALM PERFORMANCE IN SNAKES ON A PLANE ON DEAN EMERSON'S HANDLING OF THIS REAL-LIFE, NON-CGI SNAKE SITUATION.
HOW WOULD DEAN EMERSON DO IT?
STRIDING SELF-ASSUREDLY INTO THE DORM, DEAN EMERSON CALMED EVERYONE AND HELPED THE STUDENT RELOCATE THE SNAKE TO A NATURE CONSERVATORY NEAR THE STUDENT'S HOME.
NO HOLLYWOOD GLITZ. NO MOVIE STAR GLAMOUR. JUST A DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL DOING HIS JOB.
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK!
WHAT A GUY!



COMIC BY MARK ALAN STAMATY

American Airlines. After working at Brandeis Univ. and for a nonprofit, JT, in his mid-50s, indulged his lifelong interest in antiques and began a modest business as an antiques dealer. He was a frequent presence at auctions where he expanded his collections, often more acquired for his personal enjoyment than for resale. Most at home in the kitchen, he enjoyed feeding and entertaining his friends. His ease and skill made everybody happy and comfortable. He had a very informed appreciation of classical music, and he maintained a subscription to the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 40 years. He is survived by his loving husband and partner of 30 years, Robert Paladino.

*—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@primetimetransition.com).*

**73 REUNION CLASS** We lost two classmates this past fall. **Kenny Loftus** passed away September 18 in Massachusetts. He left before graduation but made many friends at Middlebury while he was there. **Rick Hayes**, who came from Connecticut and raised his family in Massachusetts, passed away on October 5 in Florida. He was captain of the basketball team. Both Kenny and Rick left behind grieving families and friends, to whom we send our condolences, including to Gary Wheeler Hayes '75. They will be missed. Their obituaries can be found on our class Facebook page and in the magazine, Rick's in the winter issue, Kenny's in the current issue. • **Bob Badger** writes, "I retired from teaching geology at SUNY Potsdam after academic year 2015 and moved to the family compound (four decrepit sheds) in Landgrove, Vt. In the summer of '09 my wife and I had dismantled my parents' house, piece by piece, because it was filled with mold and mildew. We saved what we could (doors, windows, barnboard siding, some lumber) and started building in the summer of '10. It was mostly done by the time we moved in May '15. We have 136 acres of land to play on, land that's been in the family since the '20s, which includes a five-acre field—the rest is woods. We have a decent-sized vegetable garden, blueberries, and apple and pear trees, and we're raising chickens. Our freezer, pantry, and root cellar (basement of the old house) was well stocked for the winter. Sheep, geese, and ducks are planned for this summer. I'm VP of the local historical society and on the board of directors of the community tennis club. Busier than I ever expected in retirement. I highly recommend it." • We received news from **Sallie Sprague** about reunions with college friends: "**Lynne Robertson** and I took a 10-day tour of (mostly) Inca sites in Peru. We spent Black Friday walking around the Incan ruins at Machu Picchu. It was an amazing trip and ended with a few days on the Altiplano near Lake Titicaca (12,400 feet) and a boat trip to the Uros people of the floating reed islands in the lake. Scenery everywhere was fantastic!" Sallie had met up with Lynne at a conference in Colorado and then visited her again in Missouri while on a cross-country trip to Georgia, with the destination being another visit with good friends. This was back in October 2014 and Sallie writes: "I had a mini-reunion with **Emily Fuller Hawkins**, **Lynn Fry Agnew**, and Anita Rosencrantz '74. **Jenny Scheu** couldn't make it, but we had all been to Cumberland Island during our Midd years and had not been back since. So, we staged a reunion back there again—it was a blast. They all brought spouses and everyone got along famously. A week in the sun and surf was a great break from life in the North and West." • Sallie also mentioned that the pictures **Lee Stern** has posted on our Class of 1973 Facebook page have been a real treat. Many of us have enjoyed them and probably have lots of gems in our own albums and slide trays as well. For me (**Lindy**), thinking about our college friends whose friendships have endured, I think it was that time in our lives when we developed really strong relationships with amazing people. And when I look at my friends now in their 60s and I see who they were in our 20s, how youth-sustaining is that? • That leads us to Reunion, which is right around the corner and we're looking forward to seeing you then! Back in January we talked with our class reunion coordinators, **Mary Farley** and **Kevin Kenlan**, and here's what they said: "Despite the relentless cold weather that has graced (or plagued!) much of the country this winter, our thoughts often turn to springtime in Vermont and, naturally, our 45th reunion in June. Here's your chance to relive those spring afternoons sitting on Proctor Terrace, watching the world go by—come to Reunion! From Friday, June 8, to Sunday, June 10, we '73ers will revisit old stomping grounds (we'll be staying in Gifford), reacquaint ourselves with classmates (or even better, meet ones we never knew), and perhaps rethink our college experiences. We can rehash the good times (and bad) and reconnoiter all the new additions to campus. In short, join us in returning! If you've never been to Reunion, this is the time to practice for the BIG one in 2023. Also, we can say with excitement it appears that one of our class will be receiving an Alumni Achievement Award—come find out who that classmate is!" So, until June 8, please keep in touch with your classmates and let's have a great gathering! We would also like to know how you'd like to keep in touch going forward: via social media like Facebook (our private page now has 114 members), Instagram, and Twitter, or other avenues—email us with any ideas and feedback.

*—Class Correspondents: Lisa Donati Mayer (ldmayer@aol.com); Lindy Osterland Sargent (davelindysarg@gmail.com).*

**74** Correspondent **Barry Schultz King** reports: In 1982, **Prentiss Smith** started a socially responsible portfolio investment management company, Prentiss Smith & Company, Inc. Now that he's 65 (like most of us), he has stepped down as president, ceding his role to his son, Prent. Prentiss feels lucky to have a son who is as captivated by the investment process as he is. For over 15 years, the two have worked closely together in all aspects of the business and he says that Prent has been instrumental in many of the company's best investments in recent years. Prentiss is now chairman of the board and senior advisor to Prent and the rest of the company's team. Prentiss is still fascinated, challenged, and fulfilled by the work he's been doing for over 35 years but is looking forward to a change in role—and perhaps a bit more free time. • **Casey Dennis** has now written four books in his Tanzi mystery series about a private investigator with ties to Vermont and Florida. These are ties shared by Casey who writes under the name C.I. Dennis and self-publishes his work through Amazon. His books can be downloaded through Kindle or purchased as paperbacks. When he isn't writing, Casey is an independent financial advisor and lives with his wife and daughter in Hanover, N.H. He plays bass in a couple of bands, including Stone Cold Roosters. A gig last summer reconnected him with **Chris** and **Michaela Pontoppidan Granstrom** at their Lincoln Peak Vineyards. He hadn't known they owned the vineyard and they hadn't known he would be in the band. He said his band had a great time playing there, despite a wild thunderstorm, and then went on to say, "Their wines are really good!" Chris and Michaela made a similar claim about the band. • **Lauren Singer Waite** reports, "Peter and I were lucky enough to spend most of December in Chile. We used our 40th anniversary as an excuse to make a trip we had wanted to make for years. First stop was near Santiago to visit my Chilean 'brother,' who had lived with my family as an Experiment in International Living exchange student when I was in high school. That exchange is now in its third generation of family with Germán's grandson spending several months with us in Vermont two years ago. His children have lived with us and our children have lived with him over the 50 years of our friendship. Peter and I then traveled farther south to backpack in Torres del Paine and Sierra Baguales, two extraordinary national parks in Patagonia. Then back to Vermont to an unusually cold winter. I'm still teaching but cutting back toward retirement." • The following comes under the heading of tooting one's own horn: In late October, my husband, Warren King, and I were honored by Middlebury College as two of 2017's four recipients of the Bonnie and John McCardell Citizen's Awards. A fellow recipient was Jody Kashiwa Brakeley '73. In a tradition that dates to the College's bicentennial year of 2000, the Citizen's Awards honor local residents who have helped strengthen the Addison County community through their public service. Warren and I find it a bit puzzling and very humbling to be recognized for work we do routinely and joyfully, especially in light of all the other people who also give of themselves and never receive recognition. • The news from **Dan Flanagan** (BA in tree house construction)

is that he did not get married last fall in a tree house. He did get married, however, to Geoff Kerr (Denison '81) and did so at the second-best location, a bluff in California's Marin Headlands overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The couple was surrounded by their five children, other family members, and many, many friends. Dan says, "After 10 years together, Geoff and I decided to make legal the Kerr/Flanagans (otherwise known as the 'Gay Brady Bunch'). Both of us realize how extraordinarily blessed and lucky we are to live in a country where you can marry the person you love."
*—Class Correspondents: Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).*

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**Kathy Smith Ward** reports: Dr. **Rick Hodes** arranges charity surgeries for Ethiopian children in U.S. cities. If you are interested in supporting his efforts in your city, please contact Rick at either rickhodes@gmail.com or www.rickhodes.org. John and I are on Rick's Dallas team. • **Anne Marie Thompson Miller** writes, "My husband and I traveled to New England in late July to see family and friends. We joined up with **Marybeth Metzger** and her guide dog, Foster, and spent two days exploring the Hyde Park, N.Y., area, taking advantage of beautiful scenery while learning about Franklin Delano Roosevelt. At the end of that jaunt we spent several hours with Cricket Saurel '74. Who knows where Marybeth, Tony, and I will end up next? We've discovered we travel well together, and Foster loves energetic walks." • Classmates have asked about the timing between submitting and the publishing of a personal update in the magazine. Submissions by January 10 appear in the spring issue (April), by April 1 for the summer issue (July), by July 1 for the fall issue (October), and by October 1 for the winter issue (January). We appreciate our geographic correspondents, who ask by occasional email for updates in their region: **Pascal Cheng** (Vermont), **Debbie Costello** (Northern California), **Susan Moore Harmon** (Southern California), **Chris Tower Zafren** (Alaska, Washington), **Sally Kotchian** (New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona), **Dale Briliant DeWitt** (Colorado, Montana), **Janet Stanford** (Maryland, D.C.), **Susan Martin** (Florida), **Tom Plumb** (international), **Deborah Shadd** (Massachusetts), **Philippa Billikopf Anderson** (Texas), **Sue Whipple-Peverada** (Maine), **Nan Rochelle McNicholas** (New Hampshire), **Anne Marie Miller** (Georgia), and **Lisa deMauro** (New York). We still have a few states not covered. Let Nan or Kathy know if you'll help with geographic coverage—only four emails a year.
*—Class Correspondents: Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com); Kathy Smith Ward (katherinesward@msn.com).*

## 76

**Martha Page Dickinson** writes, "Still living in Vermont, I have recently joined the staff at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center perinatal addiction outpatient treatment program, working in family support for pregnant women, new moms, and their children while the women are recovering from addiction. At home we are sometimes the roost for our four fledgling daughters, each making her way beyond college; our Airbnb guests are often returning as friends who help tend our sheep and small flock of ducks and chickens, and we continue to study and live with our honeybees." • **Kevin Commins** has been active in theater after moving back to Vermont six years ago after 30 years as a screenwriter and production executive in Los Angeles. Among other things, he has appeared in and directed a number of shows for the Middlebury Community Players, performed in a college production of *Stupid F---ing Bird* in the Mahaney Center, and performed in a student production of *Waiting for Godot* in the Hepburn Zoo last spring. He's also been instrumental in setting up a theatrical entity to take advantage of a new, black box theater at the Vermont Coffee Company in Middlebury. "Film and television are dominated by the technology. Theater is direct, two-way communication between a performer and an audience. It's so gratifying to be doing it again after being away for so long." • Congratulations to **Karen Anderson Greene**, a high school English teacher at Middlebury Union High School, who was named 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year Distinguished Finalist. Karen was honored by the Vermont Agency of Education at the Univ. of Vermont's Outstanding Teacher Day last October. Her other recent honors include St. Michael's 2017 Unsung Hero Award, Addison Central School District/Univ. of Vermont 2016 Outstanding Teacher, and Jo and Dave Cole/Middlebury Congregational Church Youth Group 2016 Outstanding Educator Award. She lives in Cornwall with husband Rick Greene '75, and they have three grown children, Patrick, Molly, and Claire. • **Jill Cowperthwaite** sent news: "I'm in my fifth year of working on the Univ. of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus as director of marketing and external relations for the Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine. It has been a fun and fascinating place for this political science major to work! My husband, Chas Jones, and I had a fabulous trip to Italy, Israel, and Greece last fall. We love having both our girls here in Denver—Carly '09.5 and Lucy, who will marry her Australian sweetheart in Hawaii next fall." • From **Amy Boynton** came a few winter notes from the extremely cold hinterlands in Iowa: "I find it hard to believe, but I'm approaching 20 years as the owner/operator of the Mandolin Inn Bed and Breakfast in the historic upper Mississippi River town of Dubuque, Iowa. This was my early retirement plan at age 44 after a fascinating 22-year corporate life in operations, human resources, international HR, and labor relations with McDonald's Corp. I love the B&B business but am just about ready to really retire so that I can live by the Atlantic seashore and volunteer on an archaeological dig or two in Scotland."
*—Class Correspondents: Sue Lewellen LeFeber (lefeber@att.net); Delia Walch Mohlie (mohlie295@yahoo.com).*

## 77

Classmates from 1977, it's been over six months since Reunion and while memories fade faster at our age, surely you have some news to share, stories to tell—for yourself or friends. I would really prefer not to have to make stuff up. Second careers, back to college, retirement, grandchildren—we would love to hear from you about what is filling up your days 40+ years after graduation. By the time you read this, your faithful correspondent expects to be at least partially retired and burning through some hard-acquired mileage points with his spouse. I'm sure I'm not the only one looking at a different set of horizons, so please share. And pictures are great, too. And as always, if there is a social-media-savvy individual out there looking to fill up time, we have the opportunity for you. Best wishes for good health in 2018.
*—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (boblindberg1928@gmail.com).*

## 78

**REUNION CLASS** **Bob Carolla** writes, "After 19 years, I stepped down as media relations director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) after being hospitalized for three months due to complications from back surgery. (Usually, we share only good news in class notes, but what the hell.) I'm now progressing well in physical therapy and toying with but still resisting the notion of being semiretired. Hoping for a new horizon in 2018. Ideas always welcome!" • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 79. • Our 40th Reunion is the weekend of June 8–10! Hope to see you there.
*—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (djaffray@mchsi.com); Anne Rowell Noble (anne.noble@gmail.com).*

## 79

Last October, six longtime friends from the Class of '79 set out to celebrate turning 60 with an amazing adventure in Italy. **Joanellen Sullivan**, **Majie Zeller**, **Kim Ulrich Whelan**, **Nancy Limbacher Meyer**, **Amy Meeker**, and **Ellen Kramer** shared this report of the trip with us. "We started in Sorrento, with a spectacular day trip along the Amalfi Coast. (At least it was spectacular for those not stricken with debilitating motion sickness!) Then it was off to Rome, followed by trains to Florence and then Venice. Our day at a castle in Tuscany featured a cooking class and wine tasting. (Just ask us and we'll gladly share our techniques for making ravioli and biscotti.) And what would a recap of the trip be without awards? The overall star was Italy, with breathtaking scenery, art, friendly people, outstanding food, and such good wine. Joanellen gets the award for being everyone's best friend and also for being the

one person who remained completely engaged on our *four*-hour tour of the Vatican. Majie gets the award for fearless leadership. Somehow, she managed to guide us through each city with an uncanny sense of direction AND deserves an honorary law degree for relentless negotiations with Air France when Nancy's luggage failed to appear. Speaking of luggage, Nancy gets the grace-under-fire award. Not once did she complain after we landed in Sorrento and her suitcase was declared (in Italian) MIA. Nancy also proved herself to be a superb navigator and somehow managed to communicate on our behalf in Spanish because none of us actually speak Italian. Kim, the chief planner and mastermind of the trip, also made sure we were all well-equipped and layered-up. Ellen was the chief beneficiary of Kim's generosity because she took everyone seriously when they said they were only bringing a backpack and a carry-on. She gets the less-is-more award for the lightest suitcase and ability to make a fashion statement with the same four pieces of clothing during our 12-day adventure. And, Amy gets the prize for being everyone's favorite roommate, rocking a red leather jacket, and for her injection of excellent words into our conversations. We all felt so smart—and so very lucky that after all these years we still have each other and memories of a lifetime." • After reading an account in the Mount Desert (Maine) *Islander* of **Jeffrey Anderholm**'s Hurricane Maria experience last fall, we asked him for an update. He wrote, "I was at my house in St. Croix last September to take a short break from running Bass Cottage Inn, which wife Teri and I owned in Bar Harbor. It was no vacation with two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria. Irma devastated St. Thomas and St. John, but largely skirted St. Croix, just leaving a mess. St. Croix became the base for military relief operations to the other USVIs and the BVIs. Black Hawk helicopters and Osprey VTOL aircraft buzzed by my house until 10 days later when Maria scored a direct hit on St. Croix with 175 mph winds on its way to Puerto Rico. The next morning we awoke to a landscape stripped bare of green, fallen power poles and lines, and debris everywhere. No power, no communications. Three months later, my house still doesn't have power restored. But our flaky diesel generator runs a good part of the day. We've cleaned up the tree damage but other repairs are in the queue. We were relatively fortunate at my house—it stayed intact. Some local Crucian families have had to sleep in their cars when it rains because their roofs are still damaged. Still, people here press on with their lives, exhibiting patience, optimism, and strength. VI STRONG. Restoration will be ongoing for months and months. We had 363 days of wonderful weather in 2017 and two days of hell on earth. The lush landscape has returned. St. Croix is beautiful again. This year could be a lost one for the territory's tourism industry and this affects folks who work in hotels, restaurants, and shops. Folks can best help by planning a visit to St. Croix." We hope a future update will report on the continued recovery of the island. • The *New York Times* published a piece about **Fred Cray** and one of his photography projects. Fred has published six books of photography but his ongoing project of "Unique Photographs" takes art to the streets and shops and beyond! According to the article, "Over the past 12 years, Mr. Cray has hidden many more photographs around New York. His tally, scrawled on a piece of paper at his studio in Brooklyn, is over 32,600. The photos have appeared in locations as improbable as behind the Venetian-plastered walls of Park Avenue apartments and tucked into the back seat of a police car. To those who find them, they are largely inexplicable: aside from a stamp on the back with his name and the number of their creation, they offer no explanation. Their purpose, Cray explained, is to weave disruption and serendipity into the fabric of the city." Fred tells us, "I continue on in Brooklyn, traveling once or twice a year for photographic purposes. Otherwise I continue to enjoy the cultural offerings of NYC." Classmates, let us know if you find one of Fred's photos! • Keep the news coming! Better yet, tell us you want to be the new correspondent for the Class of 1979!

*—Class Correspondents: Debbie Fish Butler (midd79dbutler@gmail.com); Alice Lee Openshaw (alice.openshaw@gmail.com).*

## 80

**Lenny Wei** writes, "I'm alive and well (still) 38 years after graduating. Working (still) in Hong Kong and starting to contemplate life after work. Married (still) with three grown-up daughters—two working and the youngest finishing college this year. I regret never having had the time or occasion to return to Middlebury since graduating although visits to the U.S. have allowed for Hi-n-Bye type catch-ups with the gang (way back in the mid '80s). I did get to have dinner in January 2014 with **John 'JQ' Pomerance** in Boston, although I was sad to have missed Marcy (Parlow) '81, who was up in Middlebury doing volunteer work for the school. The two people among the gang that have visited me in Hong Kong (both in the mid/late '80s) were **Jim Alla** and **Susan Coyne Walsh**. So if anyone comes through this neck of the woods, look me up. I am here (still). Special thanks and appreciation to **Robin Howe** who reached out and connected with me—and whom I promised to update 37+ years in three lines!" • **Rusty Hlavacek** writes, "I retired from Lawrenceville School in June after 35 years there. It was a wonderful run, and now Betsy and I are living in Lake Placid, N.Y., where we have spent summers, and where our daughter Caroline (29) is also living and teaching at North Country School. Our younger daughter, Katie (27), has been in Boulder, Colo., for three years. She graduated from UVM and then went to culinary school in Denver to get certified as a natural foods chef. She is now involved in a start-up baking company called Daydream Dessert Co. We spent six weeks in Colorado in November and December and loved the time out there. We then got a full dose of winter in Lake Placid before heading to Florida in mid-February for a month. I had great fun with classmates **Scott "Frodo" Fleming**, **Wouter Rietsema**, **Ken Shulman**, **Paul Turco**, and **Steve Ahmann** from the D8 at a reunion at Midd last November. Hope to get to the Midd 40th. • **Charlie Holden** writes, "I am a designer in Atlanta for a metal shop that specializes in expensive, residential metalwork. For more than 20 years, off and on, I've gathered with a bunch of Middlebury friends and their families at Thanksgiving, mostly at **Bull Durham**'s. He's a surgeon in Flagstaff and travels several times a year to Haiti with Northern Arizona Volunteer Medical Corp. Also in the group are **Jane Ackerman**, who has an event-planning business in Norwich, Vt., **Rich Rayhill**, who is a stay-at-home dad in Boise, Idaho, and **Jay Moulton**, who lives somewhere between Seattle and central California."

*—Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd (annie.cowherd@att.net); Robin Howe (robinhowe.art@gmail.com); Annie Hartmann Philbrick (chapin802@gmail.com).*

## 81

Several Middlebury alumni, including **Alice Tower Knapp** and **Jim Renkert**, filled the trails at the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, January 28–29—the last World Cup event before the 2018 Olympic Games. Alice and Jim, along with Catherine Collins '10 and Garrott Kuzzy '06, had the rare opportunity to forerun the World Cup races, skiing the trails ahead of the racers to clear the track and give the TV cameras a chance to focus their lenses. Alice and Jim both live in Anchorage, Alaska, and had traveled to Austria to compete in the Dolomitenlauf Worldloppet Ski Marathon then cheer on the U.S. team in the Seefeld World Cup. They were on a trip organized by Garrott through his company, Lumi Experiences, which offers cross-country ski vacations in Europe. • As of this issue, I (**Carolyn**) am stepping down as class correspondent. We need two classmates to take over. Please let me know if you'd be willing to do that.

*—Class Correspondent: Carolyn Bausch (cbausch@verizon.net).*

## 82

In September 2017, Ocular Therapeutix, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development, manufacturing, and commercialization of innovative therapies for diseases and conditions of the eye, announced the appointment of **Donald Notman** as chief financial officer. Donald has over 20 years of financial operations and senior-level investment banking experience and will be responsible for all strategic financial planning and reporting and investor relations. He will also support the company's business development initiatives. Congratulations, Donald! • **Ginia Van Vranken Ziobro** writes, "Our son, Geoffrey, graduated last May from Midd and is

now living in Boston and working at Payfactors, a start-up in Burlington, Mass. We're going to miss all the excuses, especially lacrosse games, that we had to visit Middlebury multiple times over the past four years. With our youngest off to California for college, I'm now trying to figure out what phase 2 of adulthood will have in store for me. If anyone has a flexible, fascinating, challenging part-time job available, please give me a call!" • **Brett Berman** reports that in October 2017, he was granted the Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute designation (FCSI). The FCSI is one of the investment industry's most prestigious professional distinctions. It's reserved solely for an elite group of experienced financial services professionals who meet the highest standards for advanced education, ethical conduct, industry experience, and peer endorsement. Congratulations! • **Margaret Miller** is proud and relieved that her oldest son is well launched, having graduated from Wheaton College (Mass.) in May. He's now working at Mass General Hospital as a research coordinator in the Cancer Division. "We celebrated with a family trip to London over the summer after our fabulous reunion in June." • **Peter Thalheim** writes, "As a bit of alumni news, I'm running for governor of the state of Connecticut. After filing with the Connecticut State Enforcement Election Commission last June, I finally obtained a treasurer and deputy treasurer this fall. Now we have the donate button up on our site and can start soliciting donations. Since September, I have been hustling between Republican town committee meetings on weeknights to present my platform and candidacy. You will find my site at www.SaveConnecticut.com. The core of my campaign is 'Gratitude, Common Humanity, and Liberty.' And what could be wrong with that? The central theme is our common humanity. If you go on the site and click any of the three words, a short narrative will explain each one. My goal is to expand the GOP further into the African-American and Hispanic American communities and win the election with a broader base. There are over 14 articles on the site as it is laden with new ideas. Consider the 'Paris Minimum' in the environmental policy article that posits we should not argue about whether there is climate change but rather what can we do to abide by the Paris Climate Accord, provided such rules and regulations do not increase the cost of living for poor people? We all love the environment. What can we do together to help? I have a solution to DACA and the 11 million-plus illegal aliens in the U.S., which involves granting legal status to law-abiding illegals who love America and the elimination of Hispanic-American and Asian-American as minority categories, as we work towards greater unity. There is also www.CheckAmerican.com, which would add the category of 'American' to any government document that asks a citizen's race, creed, color, or ethnicity. As you are aware, there is no color for an American, but we are a people, whether we were born here or are immigrants. More unity." • **Fay Benzinger-Wilson** reports, "Having spent the better part of the last 30 years living in Johannesburg, South Africa, the connection to Vermont remains strong. Our eldest son, Cameron, graduated from Middlebury in 2014 and is now working in London as a management consultant for a Washington, D.C.-based firm. Meanwhile, our youngest son, Connor, has begun his pre-vet studies at UVM and was selected to represent South Africa in alpine ski racing at the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, Korea. Brings back fond memories of working at the Lake Placid 1980 Winter Olympics while at Middlebury!" • Reminder from your class correspondents: Don't forget to join the Middlebury College Class of 1982 Facebook group!

*—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo@bellsouth.net); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).*

## 83

**REUNION CLASS** **Brian Smith** recently left First Republic Bank, where he had worked since 2000 advising successful families and their businesses, and joined Fieldpoint Private, a boutique financial firm providing wealth planning and private banking services. He is serving as managing director and senior advisor in the Palm Beach, Fla., office. • **Patrice Binaisa** is living in Berkeley and is a California state-certified court interpreter. He works as a Spanish-English interpreter in the Santa Clara County Superior Court of California. • We hope you can make it to campus in June for Reunion!

*—Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).*

## 84

Please send us your news! Your classmates would like to know what you're up to!

*—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Eppes Winton (ewinton@mac.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).*

## 85

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you! Meanwhile you can check out a mini-reunion photo on page 83 as well as a photo sent in by **Susan Prins** on the same page.

*—Class Correspondents: Ruth Lohmann Davis (ruth.davis63@gmail.com); Denah Lohmann Toupin (denaht@comcast.net).*

## 86

**Adam Silverman** lives in Simsbury, Conn., with wife Kim and is working as VP for population health for Saint Francis Healthcare Partners, an accountable care organization in Hartford. He has recently joined Life2 as a clinical advisor and is the founder of Upstream Solutions Group, a company dedicated to improving health and wellness in communities. Kim and Adam's blended family of five kids are now all out of the house. Sam (30) is a chef in NYC. Max (25), Robert (20), and Julia (18) are all at the Univ. of Connecticut in various stages of their undergrad journey, and Gabri (20) is in her junior year at UMass Amherst. • **Scott Davison** writes, "I continue to love working and living in Indianapolis. I'm involved in a number of community causes and am back on a pool deck as a volunteer high school swim coach. My wonderful wife of 26 years, Lorraine, and I are 'adjusting' to becoming empty nesters this year. We get to our second home on the coast of Maine every chance we get and were blessed last season by 10 days of hiking Acadia with Midd roommate **Thor Tyson** and having a visit from '86er **Elaine Cissi** and her family." • **John Kirk** shares, "After 14 years, I left my company in Bangor and joined a title company based in Portland. I'll be moving to southern Maine full time this spring or summer. It has been great to get back to Addison County and reconnect with the area and people. I can't believe the changes in town and on campus since I last visited in 2004. Keep the Rosebud stories coming on Facebook, all."

*—Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).*

## 87

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you!

*—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).*

## 88

**REUNION CLASS** Hello friends! We hope you all have been following the Middlebury Class of 1988 Facebook page, where **Sarah Thompson Fulkerson** has been stalking us with pictures from the Class of 1988 New Faces book—do you still have your copy?! Come see what we all look like now—join us for Reunion on campus June 8–10. And please send us news—our column is sorely lacking! • Thanks to **Lori Greenberg Kier**, who sent some news. "After 25 years at U.S. EPA as a senior attorney, I recently retired and am now Of Counsel to the law firm of McCune Wright Arevalo, where I fight to protect the rights of consumers nationwide. It has been an especially fun challenge to learn a new field of law at this point in my career. My older daughter, Grace, is a sophomore at the College of William & Mary and plans to study abroad in Russia next year. My younger daughter, Amanda, is a high school junior who is deep in the midst of her college search. Husband Chris (Syracuse '88) and I are preparing for the empty nest by getting out and hiking every chance we get."

*—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).*

## 89

**Melanie Friedlander** has stepped down as class correspondent. If anyone would like to take over, please contact the alumni editor, Sara Marshall, at smarshal@middlebury.edu.

It is not a time-consuming job and it's a fun way to stay connected to classmates and hear what they are up to! Many thanks to Melanie for doing the job these past few years.

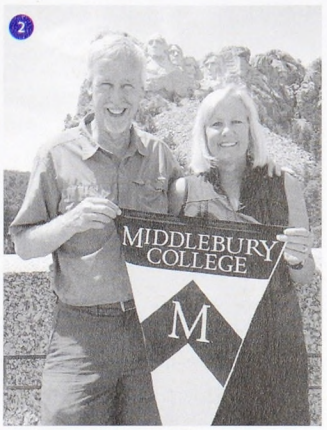
## 90

**Fritz Wyler** is living in Newport Beach, Calif., with his wife and two sons and working as a commercial real estate developer for Prologis. He spent a weekend this winter skiing in Vail with **Keith Fagan**, who is living in Boulder, Colo., with his family. • **Marco Scuriatti** is alive and well in Washington, D.C. Married, with two teenage boys (and three dogs), he is still employed at the World Bank, his employer for the last 23 years. After years of traveling across the globe and living abroad, including in South Africa, Venezuela, and Sudan, he's taken up a corporate assignment that gets him only as far as New York City. Between family and work, he still pursues his passions of cycling, windsurfing, and skiing. He'll be happy to take Midd friends on a bike ride around town when they drop by D.C. • **Rachel Schofer** is living in Guadalajara, Mexico, still working as a foreign service officer. She has two daughters, Antonia (11) and Carlotta (6), and would love to see anyone who is coming through Guadalajara. • **Jim Quirk**, an NFL official (back judge #5), was selected to officiate the NFL's Pro Bowl, which took place on January 28 in Orlando, Fla. This is the fifth time in seven years of eligibility that Jim has been selected to officiate that game.

*—Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdougm@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).*

## 91

In January, **Dana MacGrath** moved to Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, with her husband and two boys (ages 17 and 6). In addition to practicing international arbitration law full time and teaching as an adjunct professor, Dana recently joined the executive committee of the board of directors of ArbitralWomen, a nonprofit that promotes diversity and gender parity in international law, and she serves as its director of communications. • **Bill Driscoll** writes, "Middlebury and Middlesex lacrosse alumni played in the Middlesex Alumni Lacrosse Game last September to honor Ned Herter's tremendous career: 38 years as coach and 29 years as the head coach of Middlesex lacrosse. Midd alums who played included Rob Borden '04, Jimmy Reilly '89, Aaron Herter '06, and me." • **Robin van Orman Azqueta** says, "Not much new to report here in Palm Beach, Fla., except that I've been enjoying training for a spring 2019 trip to Everest Base Camp and **Carrie McCusker** inspires me, with her much higher level of fitness and training. I've been having fun participating in hereditary societies and celebrating colonial heritage and am on the board of our local Palm Beach Colonial Dames of America and Mayflower Society chapters." • **Beth Lasell Compson** reports, "Rich '90 and I have the honor of co-chairing for the second year in a row



1 Ross Carbone '05 married Christen Battipaglia (Georgetown '07) at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Doylestown, Pa., on December 3, 2016, with friends in attendance including James Galuchie '05, the newlyweds, Julia Mosse '05, Stephanie Shui '08, Alejandro Miranda '06, (second row) Will Rawson '05, Craig Hanson '03, Nick Secara '06, Brian Michaud '05, and Romulo Braga '03. 2 Peter Marshall '78 visited Ann Merrell Slaughter '78 and her husband, Tom, at their home in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. They rolled out the Middlebury College banner at Mount Rushmore! 3 Anis Mebarki '15 and Ryan LaRosa were married on January 13, 2017, in San Francisco. 4 Middlebury friends had dinner together when Matt Martin '91 was in Park City, Utah, for a film festival, where his documentary, *Plastic China*, was being screened: Chris Waddell '91 (in front), Kate Walsh Geagan '94, Megan Martin Maguire '94, Matt Martin '91, and Eileen Walsh Hopper '91.

5 Midd friends and family gathered to celebrate the marriage of Kathy Mulligan Lord '72 and Tony Flaherty at the Joppa Flats Audubon Center in Newburyport, Mass., on June 24, 2017. Future (?) Midd Kids Henry (7) and Grant (4) Lord Steppe joined in: Rick Brownell '72, Churchill Franklin '71, Judy Enright Dunning '66, Sarah Pratt Nesbitt '72, Dwight Dunning '67, Janet Halstead Franklin '72, Carlie Butcher Garonzik '72, Mary Kate Sullivan Cox '72, the newlyweds, Randy Mulligan '68, Lindy Frew Brownell '72, Nancy Morgan Serpa '72, Katherine Lord '00 with Henry and Grant, Christopher Lord '02, Joy Sawyer Mulligan, MA English '83, Michael Mulligan '75, MA English '83, Lucy Call King '76, and Roger King '75.

## ELIZABETH BALES '94

1 I had a magical grandmother who had a way of making me believe anything was possible. She wore this necklace every day. Now it's mine and I do the same—I carry on her tradition of believing that anything is possible.

2 Midd Kids from the 1990s will recognize this, and probably no one outside of Vermont will! It's a reminder of seriously low-tech, innocent fun.

3 I went on my first date at 13 with a kid named Michael and never talked to him again. Eleven years later, he sent me a note that said, "Wondering how your life turned out," which turned into a blind second date—to Italy. Here we are on that date in San Remo. Twenty-one years and two children later, he's the most encouraging and supportive husband I could imagine. Not bad for two crazy kids.

4 I was born determined (God help my parents!). I came from a family that did not have a fondness for animals. And I was obsessed. As a kid, I found every opportunity I could to be around animals. As long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a veterinarian.

5 I graduated from UPenn's School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. My Midd degree in women's studies wasn't exactly pre-vet but gave me the perfect preparation—keep an open mind, digest info, and think critically!

6 Veterinarians know that cats need to hunt for multiple small meals a day, not eat from a bowl. We know that bowl feeding is causing most of the major medical and behavioral problems of cats. There was no solution to this problem, so I invented it . . . and my life hasn't been the same since!

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY SEAN BOLTON

Greater Boston PFLAG's Pride and Passion on April 27 at the Boston Marriott Copley. Neither of our girls (Katie at Skidmore, Anna a junior at Medfield High School) are part of the LGBTQ+ community, but we feel, especially in light of the current climate, that it's important for us to stand up in support of the community. Anyone interested in learning more, please send me an email at bcompson@icloud.com." • **Elizabeth Barkell Gomez** writes, "My husband is a retired USMC lieutenant colonel and he and I work as contractors on Okinawa. We have been here for 15 years on and off since 1995. We also spent three years in Italy, three years in Tampa, Fla., and odd time periods for schools back in Quantico, Va. Our son is 20 and living here and going to school on the island. Our daughter will play DII soccer at St. Michael's in Vermont starting this fall. Island life is great! Eventually we will make our way back to the U.S. and retire near the ocean in Texas or Florida." • **Lynelle Preston Cameron** is living in Marin County, Calif., with husband Dick '94 and their two teenagers. She's leading the Autodesk Foundation and the sustainability team at Autodesk, working at the intersection of business, philanthropy, design, and climate change. Follow her on Twitter @lynellecameron if you want to hear more. • **Mariette Wharton** reports, "I was a teaching mentor during J-term's MiddCORE class on entrepreneurship and leadership. As always, it was fabulous to be back on campus and I also had a terrific time with **Becky Castle** and **Victoria Fischer Luksch**. I was also fortunate to spend a fantastic evening with Lizzie Hinckley '90 at her place in Waterbury, Vt. I've launched a new venture in Silicon Valley, NIMBLE (National Institute for Mentoring Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs) at www.NIMBLEmindset.org and we are bringing engaging, hands-on programming to schools and businesses that integrate experiential socio-emotional skills with entrepreneurial skills. It's a lot of fun and I'm enjoying working with amazing people from as far away as London, Vermont, Boston, and Virginia and I'm organizing a summer start-up camp close to home." • **Rich Cochran** writes, "Jen (Van Noy) '90 and I are excited that our second daughter, Isabelle, will be joining our oldest daughter, Sophie, at Middlebury this fall. Two down and one to go! We'll know if there will be a hat trick in a few years when daughter number three, Josie, applies to colleges." • **Dawn Blalock** and her family have been settling in to their new home in Beirut, Lebanon: "Our daughter goes to the American School in London and our dogs have adjusted to life in a new country but we get lots of weird looks having a Scottish deerhound in Beirut. In November, I started working remotely with the UN's office in Iraq and have been shuttling back and forth between Beirut and Baghdad, which is just a one-hour, 15-minute flight away. The work is interesting but I haven't seen much of Iraq except what exists in the Green Zone. Are there any Midd Kids in the region?" • **Mike Rea**, based in Seattle, has been leading the travel and tourism industry's philanthropy, Tourism Cares, for over four years, working in disaster recovery, volunteering, advocacy, and training. He's just back from Jordan, where the industry launched the Meaningful Travel Map of Jordan (www.GoLocalJordan.com), showing that travel can drive both super experiences and community change. • **Junaid Jafar** sent this news: "The four of us are still in Bahrain (13th year) with the boys now 12 and 14 years old. Work keeps me traveling in the Middle East and Europe, with a trip to Pakistan every four or five months to see family."

*—Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).*

## 92

Greetings all! Instead of pestering you for news and updates (which we are, of course, still happy to receive and post), **Dave** and I (**Leslie**) thought we'd try to elicit some stories. During Reunion Weekend there were so many "remember when" and "I can't believe you don't remember" conversations that we wanted to keep that going. The first round is *how did you meet your Midd friends, especially freshman year?* For instance, I met **Cynthia Lewis Kavanagh** while we were both getting student IDs in security and we realized we each had rooms in Battell South. Then Cynthia met **Sara Garcia McCormick**, also in Battell South, and we all met **Matt Pauley** and **Ted Kyle** because they followed their noses to our hot air popcorn maker and invited us (and the popcorn) to Battell North for a "wet Wednesday" and taught us how to play the dice game, three-man. **Ben Faucett**, you were there too! Dave indicated that most of his stories would need to be heavily redacted but he did mention meeting **Hank McKnelly** in August during football practice, and that early in freshman year Hank rearranged some plumbing in Stewart that may or may not have resulted in flooding of the third floor. So, did you meet your friends in Proctor? Playing on the same team? Doing laundry at 2 a.m.? In a discussion group of a larger lecture class? At a party? There are definitely some good stories out there, so please send us yours! • Two pieces of news from last spring: **Caroline Leary Dowd** was inducted into her high school's athletic hall of fame! She attended the Branson School and joined an impressive group of inductees, including the wife of California's lieutenant governor. She was a standout basketball player both in high school and at Middlebury, and her husband **Warren Dowd** celebrated her induction with her and their four children. Congratulations, Caroline! • Congratulations also go out to **Hugo Pietrini**, who was appointed global CEO of the Stoli Group last April. He's enjoyed a 20-year career in the food and beverage and spirit industries, most recently at Moët Hennessy, and he will now be based in Luxembourg. • More recent congratulations go out to **Kashif Zafar**'s son Amaan, who will be joining his brother, Rehan, at Middlebury this fall—Class of 2022! Cheer boys, cheer! • **Rick Faubert** traveled back to Bread Loaf last fall for Alumni Leadership Conference, partially because he was only able to be at our 25th Reunion briefly due to family commitments. Vermont rewarded his dedication with beautiful fall weather, although he discovered the heat in some of the houses up there only goes into the hallways, making for a chilly night unless one props open the door! • **Dave Boyle** moved to Tiburon, Calif., to join Stride, a customer relationship management technology platform for B2C marketers, as their chief revenue officer. He caught up with **Pete Steinle**, who lives nearby in Marin County, to watch the Patriots, even though Pete is not a fan. • And **Kate Cote Gillin** has packed up her family and moved to Bryn Mawr, Pa. • Looking forward to receiving your fun memories from freshman year!

*—Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (leslie.pagnotta@medtronic.com).*

## 93

**REUNION CLASS** Friends: Whether you are planning on attending the Class of '93 25th Reunion or not, fellow classmates would love to catch up, share old pictures, and just reconnect! Feel free to join us on Facebook's Middlebury College Class of 1993 page. It's never too late to send the latest news to **Maria Diaz**, class correspondent.

*—Class Correspondent: Maria Diaz (latinawriting@gmail.com).*

## 94

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you! Meanwhile, check out a mini-reunion photo on page 84.

*—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).*

## 95

**Meghan Kilroy** and husband Mike Corcoran welcomed daughter Catherine Victoria Corcoran on October 11, 2017. Four-year-old Michael is excited to be a big brother. • **Carol Tonge Mack** was on campus in January for Alumni of Color Weekend and gave a book talk at the Anderson Freeman Center. She has published a memoir, *Being Bernadette: From Polite Science to Finding the Black Girl Magic Within*, which tells her story of being an Antiguan girl brought to the U.S. and learning to survive in America's culture as a black immigrant female. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 84.

*—Class Correspondents: David Diamonon (ddiamonon@yahoo.com); Terra Reilly (sansivera@gmail.com).*

## 96

Please send me your news! Your classmates would like to hear what you've been doing!

*—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).*

# ClassActs

**97** **Siddharth Saran** writes, "I became CEO of Salem Steel in January 2017. In December 2016, my wife Nidhi (Gupta '00) and I along with our kids moved to the Princeton, N.J., area. Our son, Avi (10), is a hockey fanatic and daughter Anika (8) is a gymnastics girl! We'd love to meet other Midd folks in the area!" • Some classmates appear in mini-reunion photos on page 70.

*—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).*

**98** **REUNION CLASS** **Abby Manzella** sent the exciting news that she has published her book, *Migrating Fictions: Gender, Race, and Citizenship in U.S. Internal Displacements* (Ohio State University Press). The book looks at particular tactics employed by the U.S. during the Great Migration, the Dust Bowl, the Japanese American incarceration, and the migrant labor movement in the Southwest, and shows how those tactics diminished access to full citizenship rights for the laboring class, people of color, and women. • **Dan Ackerman** was recently promoted to shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in Denver, Colo. He's a member of the Intellectual Property Dept. at the firm. • Congratulations to **Caleb Clark**, who was recently named managing director at Palladium Equity Partners, a private investment firm. Caleb has been with Palladium since 2014. • Exciting news out of Colorado, where **Camila Sosman Palmer** has been named partner at Elkind Alterman Harston, a full-service immigration law firm. Camila also chairs the AILA-EOIR Liaison Committee and is an active mentor to Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network's pro bono counsel.

*—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com).*

**99** Please send us your news! Classmates want to know what you've been up to!

*—Class Correspondents: Melissa Pruessing (mpruessing@yahoo.com); Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).*

**00** Greetings from Middlebury, where it is a tepid -21 degrees as I write this. I (**Jennifer**) am back for my fourth J-term, again teaching Healing Through Writing, and only wish you all were here with me. It has been fun getting updates from classmates near and far. • **Kate Turner Bateman** is a lead analyst at a U.S. government oversight agency for Afghanistan reconstruction. She lives in Washington, D.C., with husband Bob and four-year-old daughter Eleanor. • **Jed Raymond** was recently inducted into the Middlebury Athletic Hall of Fame. At Middlebury, the lacrosse defender was a three-time first-team All-American selection and was twice named the National Defensive Player of the Year. After graduation, Jed played for the Boston Canons and Bridgeport Barrage in Major League Lacrosse. He now lives in the Queen's Park area of London with wife Torrey and daughters Ashlyn (5) and Payton (2). Jed writes, "Last summer, I took the opportunity to open up an office in the UK for my company, Cabot Properties. We are a private equity REIT focused on the industrial and logistics property market, and have been active in the UK since 2011. After enrolling Ashlyn in the American School in London, we were reminded of what a small world it is after finding out that fellow Middlebury alumni Dan and Erin Ryan Stenson (both 2003) also have a daughter in the same kindergarten class. I've found a spot on the Hampstead lacrosse team, a local club with a mix of players from around the world, and it's fun being the 41-year-old rookie! Our quick trip home for the Hall of Fame induction ceremony was indeed special, having a chance to catch up with old friends, teammates, and the coaches who made my four years at Middlebury such a remarkable experience. I know it was tough for my teammate and great friend Coach **(Dave) Campbell** to say nice things about me onstage, but I'll take it. Hope everyone is well, and be sure to give me a shout if your travels bring you through London!" • **George "Irakly" Arison**'s company, Shift, has named **Toby Russell** co-CEO with George. Toby is running the company, building and coaching its team and leading its growth, while George is focused on everything external (business development, PR, investors). Last summer they raised a new round of funding led by BMW iVentures, bringing total funding to $112M. Congratulations, George and Toby! • Congrats are also in order for **Jay Dunn**, Tara Giordano '02, and Joe Varca '02, who put up the world premiere of a new play (that their Brooklyn-based theater company, The Village, wrote/developed/directed/etc.) at Lincoln Center. Jay writes, "The show, *The Village of Vale*, is a dark fairy-tale musical that has been a three-year collaborative labor of love, and it really gets to the heart of intimate, in-the-room storytelling. This is a truly special, widely accessible show, perfect not just for adults but families as well. On top of performing, we are also fundraising to finance a tour of the U.S. and beyond." The website and trailer for the show are at www.villageofvale.com and the music is at www.villageofvale.com/the-music. • I hope by the time you read these notes that the temperature is a bit higher than it is now. Though bundled to the max, I send warm greetings from the homeland. Please keep in touch and let me know where this finds you!

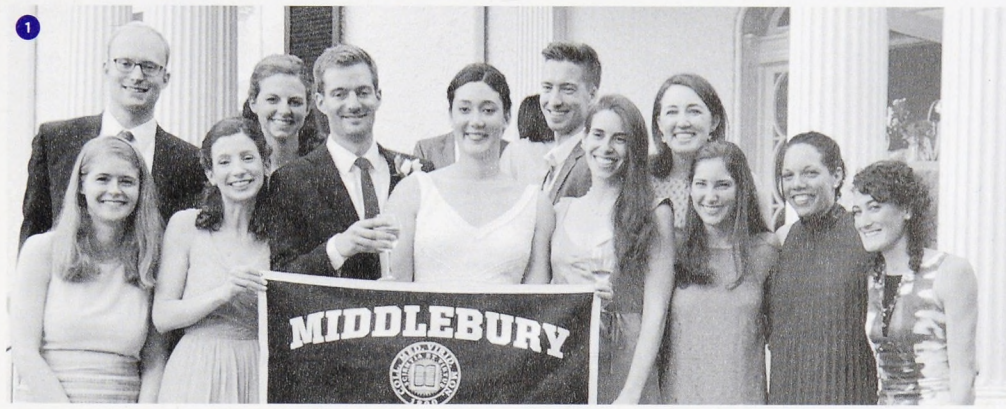
*—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (jennifercrystalwriter@gmail.com).*

**01** **Keegan** and Martha Crootof '04 **Uhl** enjoy being parents—their son is almost two. Martha is a marriage and family therapist and Keegan splits his time between OneStarLeatherGoods.com and being an independent filmmaker. Learn more about his latest short film at JessesGirlFilm.com. They still live in Los Angeles (since 2007) and enjoy the nearby mountains and incredible weather. • **Jason Ienner** reports that he is doing some work in the content space, having cocreated and sold a digital series to Spotify—and he's working on more for 2018. • **Elissa Burnell McGee** provided this update: "My family added a member, Eve, last April, who joined big sister Stacia, who turns four in May. As if that wasn't enough excitement, we moved back to New England after six years in New York City! We moved back north in mid-October and now live in Ipswich, Mass. I've gotten a new job working in marketing at Lindt, the Swiss chocolate company with U.S. headquarters in Stratham, N.H. Getting used to life without 24-hour delivery again, but the pace of life and location closer to family makes it all totally worth it." • **Sharon Wilson Purdy** earned her PhD from the Univ. of Virginia and was awarded the Maury Prize from the Dept. of Environmental Sciences. Sharon continues to investigate the geology and climate history of Mars while participating in science operations for the HiRISE and Mars Science Laboratory missions at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. • A group of alumni, including **Matt Whitcomb**, met up at the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, in January. Matt is the head coach of the U.S. women's Nordic ski team and coached in his third Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February. • Congratulations to **Meegan Moszynski**, who was named the first female executive director of the National Ski Patrol (NSP) last summer. Meegan has never been a member of the NSP but she has collaborated on clean energy initiatives in China; educational and vocational training programs for women and children in Pakistan; and rural economic development projects in Cambodia, so she has plenty of leadership experience. She is in charge of running NSP's national office in Lakewood, Colo., and running the organization's general operations.

*—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).*

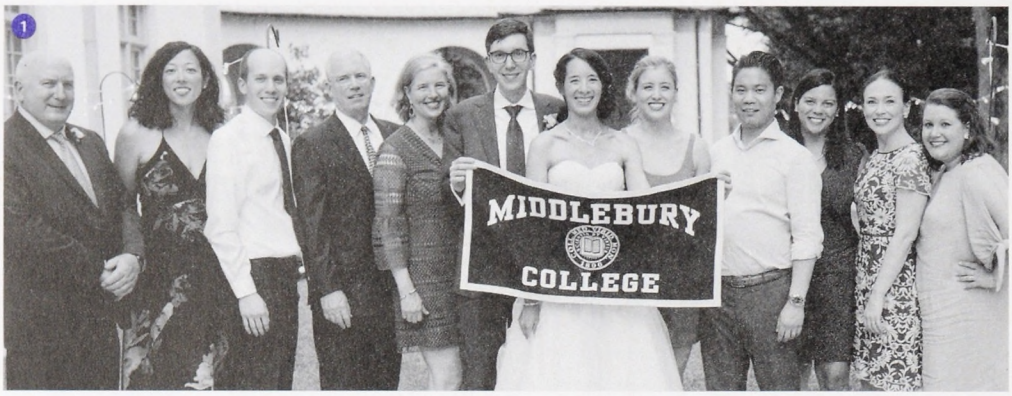
**02** In July 2016, **Ashley Elpern** married Nick Chapman in Poipu, Hawaii, where Ashley grew up. Making it all the way to Hawaii were Emily Loesche '05, Will '01 and **Jessica Monroe Vaughan**, and Mariah McKechnie '01. Ashley and Nick bought a house in West Roxbury, Mass., last year and are enjoying living in Boston! Ashley is now in her 12th year teaching U.S. history at Newton South High School. • **Melissa de Oliveira Smith** is working as a real estate agent for Windermere in Seattle. She and husband Tyler moved to a log cabin at Snoqualmie Pass, a ski resort village east of Seattle. All Midd Kids interested in skiing the Cascades are welcome to crash at their place! Melissa hasn't skiied too much recently,

as she gave birth to her first child, Alder Alston Smith, on September 5, 2017 (Midd Class of 2035!). • **Robyn Cook** reports that she recently got together with other Midd alums **Josh Howe**, **Matt Noble** (fellow Portlanders), and **Katie Samson** when Katie visited Portland, Ore.! They definitely kept Portland weird! • **Virginia Snodgrass Rangel** had an exciting year. She and her family continue to live in Houston, where she works at the Univ. of Houston as an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, teaching students the courses they fear the most: Statistics and Research Design. Her daughter, Florence, was born at the end of 2016, and older brother Francis is thrilled to have a little sister. They are hoping to make a visit to Middlebury this summer to make up for missing Reunion. As for visits, Virginia writes, "We would love to see other Midd Kids if you ever travel through Houston (I promise it's actually cooler than Austin!)." • After stints in San Francisco, D.C., and NYC, **Jamie Renner** returned to lovely Vermont in 2012. His first weekend back, he met his now-wife, Kristin. They have two daughters, Anna and Emerson. It's a madhouse! They live in Montpelier (along with fellow alums **Tim Sinnott**, Hannah Reid '04, and **Bibba Walke Kahn**). Jamie is an assistant attorney general at the Vermont Attorney General's Office and focuses on protecting Vermont's elders. He can be reached at jamie_renner@yahoo.com and encourages all to "give a shout!" • **Kristy Fullerton Carlisle** earned her PhD in counselor education and supervision in May 2017 and started a position as an assistant professor at Old Dominion Univ. in the Department of Counseling and Human Services. Her son was born four days after she defended her dissertation! She loves living in Norfolk, Va., with her three-year-old daughter, one-year-old son, and dear spouse, who is also a professor in the counseling field. • **Matt** and **Leda Smith Sommerville** returned to Burlington, Vt., with their boys and dog after three years of exploring Southern Africa from Lusaka, Zambia, where they had established an informal Midd group with a few other alums. • **Gabrielle Jacquet Fastert**, **Sarah Herrup Cloutier**, and **Kelly Stevens Riedel** have been getting together in Cambridge, Mass., for "Moms Night Out" since they each recently had their second kiddos. • On May 27, 2017, **Alison Connolly** got married to Tony Halland in Winter Park, Colo. • A few life changes for **Seth Coffrin**, his wife, and three-year-old daughter Chloe. In August, they decided to move back to Portland, Ore., to get closer to his wife's family and the mountains. Rather than do a typical relocation, they bought a 1977 SCAMP (a.k.a. a 13-foot trailer) and road-tripped from Minneapolis to Portland, in the heart of the summer wildfire season. Seth is now the new global lifestyle marketing director at KEEN Footwear, tasked with the near impossible task of making KEENs fashionable for younger people and not just our parents who have bunions. • **Molly May** has published another book, called *Body*



1 At the Rust Manor House in Leesburg, Va., Alyssa Ha '11 married Luke Baron on June 10, 2017, with Middlebury friends from the Class of 2011 helping them celebrate: Alice Wisener, Gen Guyol, the newlyweds, Cathy Ahearn, Whitney Hanson, Sophia Spring, Kaitlynn Saldanha, (second row) Gordon Hildick-Smith, Annie Friedlander McGinn, Casey Mahoney, and Megan Margel. 2 Friends from the Class of 1985 had a West Coast reunion in Serene Lakes, Calif.: Wes Carrington, Josh Paris, Sara Ramseyer Klein, Laura Ottaviano Copic, Paul Oyer, Jim Davidowitz, and Cynthia Van Vranken Keating. 3 Last July, Dance Professor Andrea Olsen gathered with former students at the 2017 Body-Mind Centering Assoc. Conference, The Fluid Body: A Somatic Journey, at Texas State Univ.: Lisa Gonzales '94, Prof. Andrea Olsen, Charlotte Sikes Howard '00, Shruthi Mahalingaiah '98, Susan Prins '85, and Pamela Vail '90.

4 Christian Woodard '10 and Kari Nielsen '13 were married on April 15, 2017, in Professor Valley, Utah. Participants in the ceremony included (from far left, clockwise) Sara Bachman '13, Ben Meader '10, Dan Stewart, Lindsey Nielsen, Pier LaFarge '10, Anna Ready-Campbell '13, Nick Gottlieb, Erica Hadden, Otto Pierce '13, Wyatt Orme '12, and Hannah Stewart. Missing from photo: Eyal Levy '14, Max Godfrey '13, and Jessie Cubberly. 5 Brenna Paul '11 married her Brazilian sweetheart, Bruno Moraes, on May 28, 2017, in her home state of Iowa. Middlebury 2011 classmates who celebrated with the couple included Jesse Bluestein, Ali Thompson, Christina Wu, the newlyweds, Molly Peach, Mathew Rojas, and Lewis Merl.



1 The marriage of Patrick Woolford '07 and Katie Englander took place on June 17, 2017, in Philadelphia, Pa. Family and friends who attended included Jay Woolford '77, Sumiko Carter '07, Evan Harris '07, Andy Woolford '79, Melissa Lynch Woolford '82, the newlyweds, Jenn Giammattei Tepper '10, Tim Wang '07, Nikki Sutton '07, Laura Harris '07, and Steph Meyer '08. 2 In their backyard in South Royalton, Vt., Steph Gregory and Ross Lieblappen '07 were married on June 24, 2017. Many Midd friends helped them celebrate: (all '07 unless noted) Jen Williams, Mike Panzer '10, Catherine Vigne, Nicole Grohoski '05, Jill Morrison Nichols '08, Danielle Levine, (second row) Carolyn Stwertka, Mia Lieb-Lappen Panzer '10, the newlyweds, Hannah Rommer '08, Laura Keeler, Joe Della Rocca, and Karl Twelker. Missing from photo: Luke Strauss, Lisa Gerstenberger Strauss, Ted Armstrong, Anna Spencer, and Myra Palmero. 3 Diana Gregory Horner '95 and Tiffany Claflin '95 were delighted to discover that their daughters were both attending Kennolyn Camp in Soquel, Calif.

4 A group of 1966 KDRs had so much fun at their 50th reunion that they decided to have a 51st reunion at the home of Scott MacFadyen (who took the photo) in Lenox, Mass.: (all '66 unless noted) Didier Reymond, John Valby, Paul Upson, Steve Buckley, Gary Mitchell '68, and Bob North. 5 A group of friends from the Class of '94/94.5 had a mini-reunion in San Francisco and Sonoma last summer: Steve Reale, Andy Roebuck, Josh Kucker, Sandy Durst, Paul Bavier, and Jeff Herriott.

*Full of Stars: Female Rage and My Passage into Motherhood.* She writes about how after giving birth to her child, Eula, she grappled with unexpected health issues and the shock, sadness, and anger over her body's betrayal as she navigated all the ups and downs of being a new mother.

*—Class Correspondents: Eric Devon (edevon@gmail.com); Morgan Jones (morganjones25@gmail.com).*

## 03

**REUNION CLASS** Dear Class of '03: Our 15th Reunion is quickly approaching—we hope you have marked your calendars for June 8–10! In the meantime, please send us your news, updates, special moments, and events. We love to hear what you are up to and to share it with the Midd community. See you in June! **Nathan** and **Janine**

*—Class Correspondents: Nathan Davis (davis.nm@gmail.com); Janine Knight-Grofe (jknightgrofe@gmail.com).*

## 04

The partners of law firm Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough recently elected **Cassie Crawford** to the partnership. She joined the firm in 2014 and was previously an associate. She practices in the areas of business litigation, employment litigation, and class action defense and is based in Winston-Salem, N.C.

*—Class Correspondents: Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (princess1328@yahoo.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).*

## 05

**Andrea Hamre** recently earned her doctoral degree in Virginia Tech's planning, governance, and globalization program. Her dissertation was titled "A Transport Justice Evaluation of Employer-Based Transit Subsidies" and focused on affordable access among the working poor. • **Michael Gaughan** has been hired as the executive director of two financing organizations, the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank and Vermont Educational and Health Buildings Financing Agency. He also adds that he moved to Vermont with wife Abby and daughter Sylvie to take the new job! • **Anton Koychev** married his coworker, Xinyu Li, last May in a small, private wedding in Princeton, N.J. They continue to live in Princeton. • **Ted King** married Laura Spencer last November 18 in Boulder, Colo., at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Several Midd alums helped them celebrate including Emily Peterson '08, **Ainsley Close**, Chris Eaton '99, **Eliza Cameron Eaton**, **Brent Levy**, and Heidi Erbe Dotterer '06.

*—Class Correspondent: Martha Dutton (martha.dutton@gmail.com).*

## 06

As of this writing, it's a few weeks before Christmas, it's 25 degrees, and it's snowing on pastoral Middlebury. Students no doubt are going about their business preparing for winter exams, final papers, and doing responsible

partying at off-campus semi-formals. And yet, two of your correspondents are diligently collecting and reporting from Europe and the West Coast, where fires ravage Los Angeles. It's a visceral reminder for us that the most important thing in this life is your loved ones. Thankfully many of us can count on both hands the Midd Kids we love, and we will continue those bonds through 2018. • For example, six of 2006's most epic lax bros gathered for their sixth annual holiday dinner in NYC. **Jonathan Sisto**, **Aaron Herter**, **JP Coviello**, **Travis Meyer**, **Chip Campbell**, and **Gabe Wood** took off their pinnies, put on their blazers, and met up at the Strip House, while **Scott Atkinson** facetimed in from the West Coast. • Meanwhile out in Bozeman, Mont., **Hilary Eisen** is living the dream as the recreation planning and policy manager for the Winter Wildlands Alliance, a national nonprofit dedicated to preserving wild land and human-powered snow-sports recreation on public lands. As public lands seem to be shrinking in this current climate (political and environmental), we're grateful for Hilary's work! • **Lily Balsen** recently starred in *Paradise* at Luna Stage alongside *Murphy Brown*'s own Grant Shaud. She has several NYC theater credits. • **Sam Daly** and his wife Marissa recently celebrated the birth of their son, Owen. Owen has been crushing Lakers gear since day one. With any luck he'll be balling at Middlebury in the 2030s. • **Tim Dooley**, **Alex Nadas**, **Zach Snyder**, **J. David Freedman**, **Chris Cadwell**, **Tim Sheridan**, **Mike Kagan**, and **Josh White** had an epic mini-reunion in NYC last fall. They took in the changing leaves from the High Line, and after reviewing the photo, we can honestly report that all of them look exactly as they did during college. Well, except for Kagan's mustache, which looks a tad thicker than it did back in the day. • **Mitch St. Peter** and wife Jeanne welcomed their son Michael Xavier St. Peter at a whopping 9 pounds 10 ounces. Gadzooks! • **Annie Stamell** moved out of the apartment she has lived in for the past eight years. We know, it doesn't sound *that* dramatic, but we figured it was worth a shout-out since she practically live-streamed the entire process on social media. Also, she's only moving two blocks. But Instagram updates appreciated nonetheless! • **Brittany Potz** was out in Southern California for the American Heart Association's 2017 Scientific Conferences. She got together with **Stamell**, Hannah Baker '07, Julia Bredrup '07, and your man **Jack Donaldson**. We talked science, Hollywood, and the good ole days, then Brittany went to the conference, where she WON the Vivien Thomas Young Investigator Award! • **Rachel Durfee** and husband Jake embarked on a six-month journey around the world. Planned stops include Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Australia, and Argentina. The trick to packing for trips like that? Socks. Lots of socks. • **Garrott Kuzzy** and Catherine Collins '10 are living in Innsbruck, Austria, where he is pursuing his MBA and running his company, Lumi Experiences. He recently organized a trip through his company to Seefeld, Austria, for the last World Cup event before the Olympics, where he ran into several Midd alums, including Matt Whitcomb '01, head coach of the U.S. women's Nordic ski team, and Simi Hamilton '09 and Ben Lustgarten '14, who were both racing. Garrott and Catherine had the rare opportunity to forerun the World Cup races, skiing the trails ahead of the racers to clear the track and give TV cameras the opportunity to focus their lenses. • **Michele Bergofsky Hornok** and husband Gerry welcomed their second child in September, Miles Julian Hornok. • And in a stroke of luck or maybe fate, Michele's former Midd teammate **Channing Weymouth Warner** and husband Luke welcomed their son, Michael. • There's something in that crisp New England air because over in Beantown, **Kristen Herzog** and husband James had a boy of their own, named Rocky. • Keep the notes coming everybody!

*—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com); Jess Van Wagenen O'Rielly (jessorielly@gmail.com).*

## 07

**Meira Lifson** married Kameron Decker Harris (UVM) on July 1, 2017, in Seattle, Wash. Other 2007 graduates in attendance were **Jen Williams**, **Molly Bowman**, **Danielle Levine**, **Ross Lieblappen**, **Caitlin Littlefield**, **Lisa Gerstenberger Strauss**, and **Luke Strauss**. • **Heather Gallagher** married Justin Gould on September 3, 2017! • **Joel Wolfram** writes, "After earning a master's degree from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in 2016, I moved to Philadelphia to start working in public radio. I've been filing stories for NPR affiliate WHYY that often revolve around the effects of the opioid addiction crisis in the area. When I'm not working, you can find me hanging out in Philly's Fishtown neighborhood."

*—Class Correspondents: Carlos Beato (carlosmbeato@gmail.com); Amanda Cook Maher (amandahollos@gmail.com).*

## 08

**REUNION CLASS** Hi, Class of 2008! Mark your calendars and book your travel! Our 10th Reunion is June 8–10 and we can't wait to see you there. Can you believe it's been 10 years?! Here are some updates from our class. • **Nick Monier** and wife Julie welcomed their first child, baby girl Lilly, on January 21. Nick is a corporate finance attorney in Dallas with the law firm Haynes and Boone. Congrats, Nick! • **Francie Kammeraad** and William McCanless married September 2, 2017, in Grand Rapids, Mich. • Clark '06 and **Amy McCowan Smith** live in Oakland, Calif., with their 16-month-old daughter, Pippa, and two-year-old Bernese mountain dog, Frankie. Pippa and Frankie keep them busy exploring baby-friendly trails and dog-friendly beer gardens in Northern California, often with other Middlebury friends. • **Ted** and **Heather Harken Parker** live in Norwalk, Conn., with twin boys Taylor and Jamie, who turn two this summer. The family commutes to King School, where Heather's a learning specialist and Ted is associate head of the Upper School. • On October 28, 2017, family and friends (including a great showing of Midd alumni!) gathered in Tabernash, Colo., for the wedding of **Audrey Nelson** and **Dave Campbell**. In true Middlebury fashion, the celebration included plenty of outdoor activities, laughter, and dance floor revelry. Audrey and Dave also enjoyed a weekend of skiing with **Pat Cunningham**, **Jack Britton**, and other friends in Steamboat, Colo. • **Stephanie Strohm**'s latest book, *Prince in Disguise*, was published by Disney-Hyperion in December. *USA Today*'s Happy Ever After section called the YA romance, about an American teen who falls for a cute English boy at her older sister's reality TV wedding in Scotland, a "must-read." Disney-Hyperion is publishing her next book, *Love à la Mode*, about two American teens who attend a prestigious cooking program in Paris, this November. • In January, **Brianna Cullen Wilson**, **Chelsea Minton**, Eric Ambrette '04, and **Marcus** and **Amanda Brickell Bellows** with their two Midd Kids reunited for a weekend in Middlebury, where Amanda spent the month teaching her J-term course Introduction to Global Slaveries: From Ancient Greece to the Present. Despite the frigid weather, they enjoyed visiting campus and cheering on Middlebury's basketball and hockey teams. They are looking forward to the class reunion in June! See you in Vermont

*—Class Correspondents: Michelle Cady (michelle.elizabeth.cady@gmail.com); Laura Lee Mittelman (laurawhitneylee@gmail.com).*

## 09

Happy spring, Class of '09. We hope you are all well! • **Whitney Hendrickson-Cahill** is finishing up her final year of ob/gyn residency and this July will be heading to Duke for a fellowship in female pelvic reconstruction surgery. Have fun exploring North Carolina, Whitney! • **Garrett Reynolds** has teamed up with his brother to create a start-up in the architecture space, UpCodes. The start-up recently completed the YCombinator program. His office is in San Francisco, two blocks from his favorite climbing gym. • **Dilanthi Ranaweera** is working in rural Myanmar for an organization called One Acre Fund, which serves small-holder farmers. Dilanthi reports, "I head the field operations department and am often getting my feet muddy walking barefoot through farmers' paddy fields!" • **Dan Kane** is in his second year of a PhD at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, researching soil carbon cycling in agricultural systems. He lives in Hamden, Conn., with his wife, Emily May '10. • **Molley Kaiyoorawongs** is living and working in Bangkok, Thailand, these days. She is originally from Thailand and decided to move back after 20 years in the United States. She's currently working as a middle

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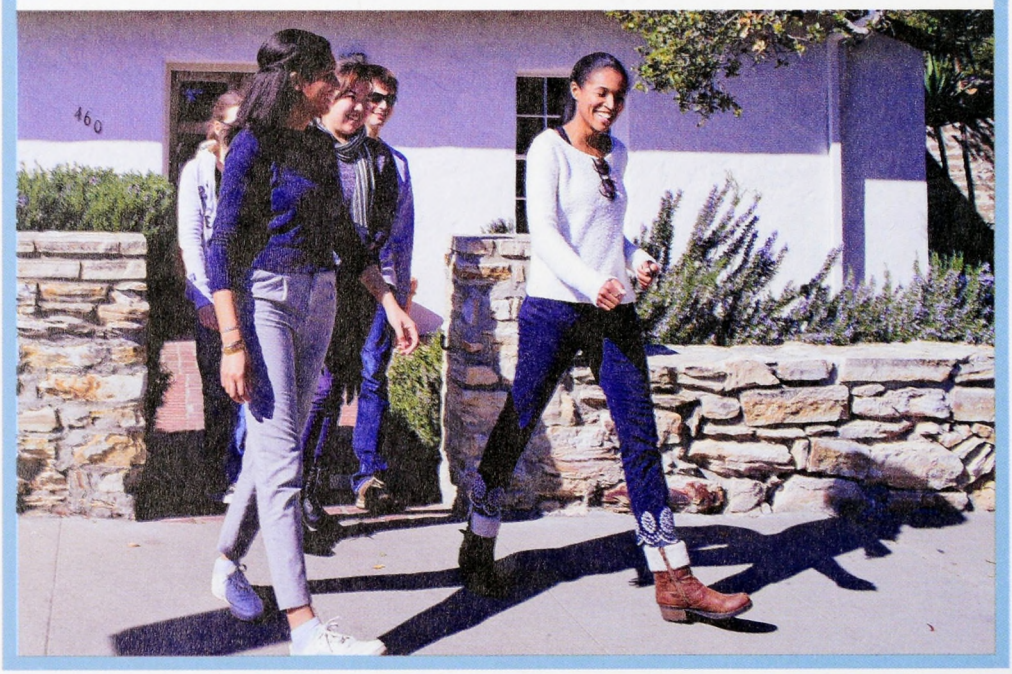


school mathematics teacher at an international school in Bangkok, where she recently bought a scooter to get around town. It's a great adventure and she has no idea how it will end. She invites other Midd alums visiting Bangkok to reach out!

*—Class Correspondents: Billie Borden (billie.borden@gmail.com); Ashley Bell Volwiler (ashley.volwiler@gmail.com).*

## 10

There are many new updates from the Class of 2010! **Kate Lupo** has a lot of entrepreneurial activity happening in her life! She is the founder of EntryLevelHollywood.com, where she helps college students and recent grads land jobs at top entertainment companies in Los Angeles and NYC, including CAA, WME, UTA, ICM, Fox, Paramount, the Conan O'Brien Show, Amazon Studios, and more. She has even helped a handful of talented Midd Kids get hired! She writes, "It's been a lot of fun. Over the past two years, I've taught my Entry-Level Hollywood Workshop to over 1,200 students at top colleges and universities across the country, including Yale, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Middlebury, UCLA, and others." She is also a marketing consultant and helps online coaches build websites and marketing campaigns. • **Emily Allison** is the new development coordinator at Bridgercare, the local family planning and reproductive health clinic in Bozeman, Mont. • Last summer **Christopher Wood** backpacked around Thailand, mostly up north through the jungle around Chiang Mai, and eventually down to the islands near Krabi and Phuket. He met some interesting people and ate some very interesting foods along the way. • **Catherine Collins** is living in Innsbruck, Austria, with Garrott Kuzzy '06 and is working as the lead service designer at More Than Metrics, a tech start-up in Innsbruck. In January she and Garrott attended the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, with Garrott's company, Lumi Experiences, and they ran into many Midd alums, including Simi Hamilton '09 and Ben Lustgarten '14, who were both racing. Catherine and Garrott had the rare opportunity to forerun the World Cup races, skiing the trails ahead of the racers to clear the track and give TV cameras the opportunity to focus their lenses. • Lastly, a big congratulations to our classmates who recently celebrated their nuptials. **Lisa Gretebeck** and Alec Weltzien '08 got married on November 1, 2017, at the Tides Inn in Irvington, Va. They had a small ceremony with immediate family and plan to celebrate with friends this upcoming summer. They live in Alexandria, Va. Lisa works as an emergency and critical care veterinarian and Alec works for the Department of State. • **Raina Crawford** married Justin Gilchrist on July 29, 2017, at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y. She writes, "We are new residents in downtown Brooklyn, N.Y. I'm a fifth grade Spanish immersion teacher at Avenues: The World School and Justin is in the transformation office as senior analyst at Newell Brands." • It's 2018 and we would love to hear all your adventures; drop a line to **Alice Ford** or **Oscar Loyo**.

*—Class Correspondents: Alice Ford (alicemarieford@gmail.com); Oscar Loyo (loyo.oscar@gmail.com).*

## 11

While it's hard to believe it's now been seven years since we graduated, it's exciting to hear about all the incredible things our classmates continue to accomplish. • After pursuing a dual master's in Latin American studies and urban planning at UNM, **Nora Lamm** received a yearlong Boren Fellowship to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She writes, "I'm conducting research here and improving my Portuguese (with some unsuccessful surfing attempts, plenty of beach time, and a few *caipirinhas* as well). The program requires that recipients seek federal employment with a national security focus upon their return, so I'm looking forward to returning to D.C. and finding a way to contribute my skills (and resist!)." •

**Jamie Studwell** moved to Boston last fall to work on a master's in technology, innovation, and education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She's excited to be back in New England for the first time since Midd, after four years doing higher education research and tech consulting in Washington, D.C. She graduates in June and will either go to India for three months to study Hindi or put her data analysis and tech-design skills to use at a learning technology company who-knows-where. • **Megan Mishler Myers** completed her PhD in Hispanic literature at Vanderbilt Univ. in 2016 and is now an assistant professor of Spanish and Latinx studies at Iowa State Univ. She and husband Chris have two daughters: Marcela (3) and Holly Dolores (3 mos). • **Emmanuelle Saliba** writes, "After 28 years in my native city of New York, I decided to move to France to pursue an incredible opportunity." Emmanuelle, who was most recently overseeing the breaking news desk at NBC, is now overseeing all of social strategy at the European broadcaster Euronews. "I'm looking forward to working in international news in a company that is completely multicultural." She lives in the city of Lyon and has already eaten half of her weight in cheese. • Congratulations to our recently published classmates! **Taryn Tilton** graduated from the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. Her novella, *Cherry Cherry*, was published in September. • **Moriel Rothman-Zecher**'s debut novel, *Sadness Is a White Bird*, came out on February 13 (Atria Books / Simon and Schuster). A *Publishers Weekly* review declared, "[An] outstanding debut. . . . Rothman-Zecher has an unusual way with words, giving lovely, fresh descriptions of desire, violence, and injustice." • Finally, we're delighted to share announcements about a few recent weddings: **Anthony Kuchan** and Nicole Varallo tied the knot in the Township of Washington, N.J., last July. They met in Raleigh, N.C., while Nicole was studying veterinary medicine at North Carolina State University and Anthony was working in the city. Among Midd Kids in attendance were best man **Dave Damm** and wedding party members **Andrew Poulin**, **Gary Cooper**, **Dane Steel**, **Chris Marshall**, **Darren Small**, and **David Reed**. Just before getting married, Anthony earned his MBA from the University of Washington (go Huskies!) and afterward restarted his career at Accenture as a management consultant in the finance and enterprise performance practice. The two live in Seattle with their dogs, Ralph and Ozzie, and enjoy the PNW beer, outdoors, and flannel vibes. • Alyssa O'Gallagher '12 and **Maggie Moslander** were married on September 2 at Bliss Ridge Barn in Moretown, Vt. Bill Goettler and Maria LaSala, parents of Anna LaSala-Goettler '14, performed the ceremony, and many dear Midd friends were in attendance including Anna, Emme Ackerman '13, Chris Dola '12, **Rachael Jennings**, **Alex Larrow**, Kirsten Aguilar '14, Julia Paolillo '15, **Chelsea Guster**, Cailey Cron '13, **Julie Tschirhart**, Jordan McKinley '14, Rachel Getz '15, Nora Sheridan '12, Maren Granstrom '13, Becca Roe '15, Nike Power '14, Dana Tower '12, Emma Burke '12, **Stephanie Halgren**, Hilary Platt '12, Tori Aiello '12, Hillary Aidun '12, **Rachel Pagano**, Heather Pangle '10, Lauren Brown, MA French '14, and Professor Murray Dry. The reception also included a performance by the Middlebury Paradiddles. The couple writes, "It was an amazing day, and we're so grateful to all our families and friends for trekking to the Mad River Valley to celebrate with us!" • **Molly Peach** married Matthew Mayhew on June 17, 2017, on his home island of Martha's Vineyard, Mass. They recently finished building their home in Chilmark on the Vineyard. • Thanks to all who submitted notes for this issue! Please feel free to reach out to us any time at midd2011@gmail.com. Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

*—Class Correspondents: Ashley Cheung (cheung.ash@gmail.com); Carly Lynch (cjlynch489@gmail.com).*

## 12

Greetings, and happy spring, everyone! We hope this finds you doing well. Read on for some updates from our classmates, and don't hesitate to give us a shout if you've got news to share! • **Sam Hurt** says, "Last fall I joined the New York office of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan as a law school graduate in the financial restructuring group." • **Bee Ndlovu** left her private equity job in Nairobi, Kenya, to start her MBA at Oxford University's Said Business School. She recently attended a gathering in London with several other Midd Kids from the Class of 2012, including **Rachel Callender**, **Nina Wright**, **Diana Gor**, **Sebastian Damberg-Ott**, **Kara Shurmantine**, and **Ross Berriman**. • **Vincent Jones** obtained a master's in education policy from Teachers College, Columbia Univ., in 2014, served as a faculty member at Choate Rosemary Hall for two years, and returned to Columbia in 2016 as a full-time doctoral student in health and behavior studies. Vincent recently passed his certification exam and has begun his dissertation on the sexual behavior of young travelers using mobile dating applications. Vincent is also a predoctoral fellow with the Collaborative Research Group on Health Policy and Promotion, where he has contributed to two articles on male circumcision and identity formation in queer Christian men. He is active in his Harlem church and enjoys the arts in New York City. • **Elias Alexander** and his band, Bywater, were featured last fall on the blog Music Road, where their album, also titled Bywater, was reviewed as an "engaging debut." Their music features a blend of Irish, Scottish, country, and folk influences. • Also in the arts, last summer **Nathaniel Rothrock** starred in the musical *Castle Happy*, performing the role of Errol Flynn at the Altarena Playhouse in Alameda, Calif. • **Jason Mooty** married Andy Schumeister on September 9, 2017, in Carmel Valley, Calif. Class of 2012 friends in attendance included **Colleen Carroll**, **Mike Downey**, **Becca Fanning**, **Jack Maher**, **Amanda Ng**, and **Armaan Sarkar**. Congrats, Jason and Andy! • Upon graduating from Middlebury, **Heath Townsend** worked for five years with J.P. Morgan and Trammell Crow Residential in Dallas, Texas, before enrolling in the MBA program-real estate concentration at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern Univ. He'll graduate this June. • Finally, **Ben Weinberg** married Elisabeth Sholem on July 29, 2017, at Castle Peak Ranch in Eagle, Colo. • Cheers everyone! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*—Class Correspondents: Sara Cohen (srcohen90@gmail.com); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).*

## 13

**REUNION CLASS** **Hannah Newman** wrote in celebrating the marriage of **Jocelyn Remmert** and **Stephen Lammers**: "The wedding was at the Old Lantern Inn, not an hour from Middlebury's campus, on December 31. It was a truly unforgettable way to ring in the New Year!" • **Quinn Bernegger** is a soloist in Middlebury's Bach Fest this April, singing as the Evangelist in the St. John Passion. As a tenor, he has been very busy in his operatic career the past few years, appearing at regional houses and concert venues around the Northeast. He also received first place in the American Prize in both opera and art song categories and was a finalist in the FAVA Grand Concours competition in 2015. He is pursuing a graduate diploma in opera performance at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. This summer he is joining Opera Saratoga as an apprentice artist. • Last summer **Alan Sanders** moved to Mexico City to change things up and work at a bike/coffee shop called Distrito Fijo Club de Ciclismo, where he learned the fine arts of both bikes and coffee. He started off the trip with good company as his freshman-year roommate **Danny Loehr** was also in town. Alan planned to be there until October. • Congratulations to **Corinne Prevot**, who as the founder of Skida headwear, was named to *Forbes* 30 under 30 list! She is also celebrating 10 years of the business! • Don't forget to mark your calendars for our five-year, coming up this June! Time flies. It would be great to see everyone on campus to start off the summer!

*—Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (eccburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterd1331@gmail.com).*

## 14

Anne Noble '78 sent the exciting news that **Sarah Noble** took first place in the Backroads Guest Photo Contest for her photo from a trip to Iceland. You can see it on the Backroads website. • When **Ben Lustgarten** raced in the World Cup races in Seefeld, Austria, in January (the last World Cup event before the Olympics), he ran into several Midd alums, including Garrott Kuzzy '06 and Catherine Collins '10, who were there with Garrott's company, Lumi Adventures, as were Alice Tower Knapp '81 and Jim Renkert '81. Ben, Garrott, Alice, and Jim were all Middlebury Winter Carnival

champions. • **Bryanna Kleber Devonshire** recently joined the law firm of Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green in their Manchester, N.H., office. With a JD from Vermont Law School, she is a member of the firm's business litigation and environmental groups. • As of this issue, **Hannah Ostrow** and **Vivian Cowan** are stepping down as correspondents. We thank them for their years of volunteering! **Emma Kitchen** and **Jackie Breckenridge** are taking over with **Peter**. Here is their first report: The Class of 2014 and 2014.5 has been busy through the end of 2017 and into 2018 in the U.S. and around the world. **Leif Castren** spent 2017 on a Fulbright grant to Chile, studying the ecology of forests in the aftermath of volcanic eruptions. He has since returned to New Haven, Conn., where he is a graduate student in Yale's religion and ecology joint degree program. • Also outside the U.S., **M. Maxim Wowk** is based in Toronto. His company, Wolf Pack, is a venture capital family office focused on retail, manufacturing, and conservation. Its international partnerships cover the Caribbean and Europe. • After four years of working at Public Counsel in Los Angeles, **Anthony Perez** will be attending UC Irvine School of Law in August as a Public Service Scholar. • **Benjamin Savard** has been living in Minneapolis with Meridith James Carroll '15, working as a video editor/colorist and volunteering at a nonprofit microcinema. • **Kevin Yochim** has been living in Denver, working for an international education nonprofit and traveling around the western U.S. encouraging college students to study abroad. • Other exciting news from our class is that **Nike Power** will have her first novel, *Wildergirls,* published by Random House in 2019! • We love collecting class news from our classmates via our email communications and look forward to publishing more of the goings-on of the group going forward. Send us news at middleburyclassof14@gmail.com!

*—Class Correspondents: Jackie Breckenridge (jackiebreck@outlook.com); Emma Kitchen (m.emma.kitchen@gmail.com); Peter Mattson (petercmattson@gmail.com).*

**15** **Joseph Flaherty** is a staff writer at *Phoenix New Times.* He graduated with an MS from Columbia Journalism School last May. • Please send us news! We'd love to hear from you!

*—Class Correspondents: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com); Cooper Couch (couch.cooper@gmail.com).*

**16** **Aleck Silva-Pinto** is a Venture for America fellow in Cleveland working for a tech start-up called Votem Corp—a revolutionary mobile voting platform designed to securely cast votes in elections across the globe.

*—Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).*

**17** Since graduating, **Katrina Moore** has worked as an assistant to ceramicist Arlene Shechet, helping produce cast-iron, brass, and ceramic parts for sculpture commissioned to be installed at Madison Square Park in Manhattan. She has also worked as an apprentice to local furniture fabricator, John Monks, at Vermont Tree Goods in exchange for studio space in his large mill in Bristol. Katrina has been making art in her free time and has now moved to Denver to work and pursue art. • **Kean Haunt** spent last summer pedaling around the state of Montana with the Agile Rascal Bicycle Touring Theatre, a group committed to touring original theatre entirely by bicycle. The troupe spent five weeks in residence in Great Falls writing a play, then six weeks covering a 1,300-mile route, stopping in 10 different cities for performances and workshops. They're beginning to gear up to do it all again in a year, in Florida this time. • **Tim Ogle** is excited to have joined Middlebury's Admissions Office and share his experiences and passion for Middlebury with prospective students and families. Last fall, Tim enjoyed traveling to high schools and college fairs around the country, meeting many talented, potential students. He then was part of the process of reading applications. He feels honored to be part of the team working to select new classes of outstanding Middlebury students. • **Brittany Parker** works as fourth grade teacher in Dover, Vt. Dover is an International Baccalaureate school, so they use a transdisciplinary, inquiry-based approach in the classroom, which fits well with the approach she learned from the Middlebury Education Department. Brittany enjoys working at a small, rural school because she believes it allows her to develop a close-knit community. She feels lucky to have her own classroom straight out of college and is really loving being a teacher. • Since graduating from Middlebury, **Hayden Dublois** has immersed himself in state politics in Montpelier, working as an executive assistant in the office of Gov. Phil Scott. Hayden has been able to build new connections with stakeholders in the political process and become more engaged in policy making overall. He believes Middlebury prepared him well for the writing and data analysis he completes on a daily basis. He's had numerous opportunities to work with lawmakers, policy experts, community advocates, and countless others to help grow Vermont's economy, make the state more affordable, and protect the most vulnerable. Hayden has assisted constituents in navigating the maze of state government in order to acquire essential health insurance or receive necessary permits. He says it's been rewarding, educational, and exciting.

*—Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com).*

## OBITUARIES

**36** **Doris Wall Roberts**, 102, of Marco Island, Fla., on April 1, 2016. A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she worked as a legal secretary for two years then owned a shop from 1938 to 1941. In the 1950s she opened a small store again and took over the New England Handcrafts House, building her business into Doris Roberts Shop. Living in Puerto Rico for many winters, she opened a branch shop and funded and set up a nightclub for a short time. At age 64, she earned her pilot's license and bought a 1976 Piper Warrior. After selling her shop, she worked for many years making lobster magnets out of shells. In the 1940s, she and then-husband Jim Roberts '36 had daughters Sharon Benveniste, MA Spanish '66, and Nancy Saul, MA Spanish '67. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Linnea Wall Parker '31 and brothers-in-law Kenneth Parker '31 and Richard Roberts '33.

**41** **Roswell D. Schenck**, 101, of Red Bluff, Calif., on September 12, 2017. A Delta Kappa Epsilon at Middlebury, he served in the Navy, doing duties that included escorting troop transports to Murmansk, Russia; serving in Patton's artillery off North Africa; providing coverage for troop landing at Salerno; and minesweeping in Tokyo Bay. He joined the mining business, working for Hercules Powder, Celanese Corp., and U.S. Potash/U.S. Borax and Chemical Co. Predeceased by wife Marian (Albright) and son Roswell, he is survived by daughter Margaret, four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, two stepchildren, five step-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren.

**45** **Barbara P. Abel**, 94, of New York, N.Y., on December 5, 2017. After graduation, she studied at the Latin American Institute and also learned German. She took a job as a bilingual secretary at import-export company Kurt Orban Steel, where she worked 36 years, retiring as senior VP in charge of imports of carbon steel wire rods from Europe and Japan. She was very involved with the New York City Audubon Society. She is survived by two nieces and their families.

**Roderick P. Grant**, 93, of Sun City Center, Fla., on December 5, 2017. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi at Middlebury, he joined the Army during WWII and drove an ambulance with the 95th Infantry Division in France and Germany. With an undergraduate degree from Western Reserve Univ., he earned a degree in optometry from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tenn., and had a 44-year career after joining the practice his grandfather started in 1896. He is survived by wife Felicia (Adams), sons Peter, Stephen, and Timothy, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother George '43.

46 **Norma Taylor Clark**, 91, of Asheville, N.C., on December 9, 2017. While raising her children in New Jersey, she was active in Girl Scouts and as a Planned Parenthood volunteer. She volunteered with Southern Ocean County Hospital and served as chair of the Ocean County Library Foundation, leading a large capital campaign. Predeceased by husband Roosevelt Jr. and son Roosevelt III, she is survived by daughters Linda and Pat, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Alice Taylor Thornycroft '42.

**Joyce Hitchcock Hardy**, 92, of Shelburne, Vt., on October 31, 2017. A member of Alpha Xi Delta, she worked as a stewardess with Eastern Airlines after graduation. Marrying in 1950, she and her husband lived in Buenos Aires for a year before settling in Waltham, Mass. She returned to school to earn a degree in library science and had a career as a librarian in the Weston (Mass.) Town Library. Predeceased by husband Dave, she is survived by children Kristen '74 and Bruce '77, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Alice Thorn Laquer**, 92, of Doylestown, Pa., on December 11, 2017. A Kappa Kappa Gamma at Middlebury, she worked as a lab technician at several hospitals and Fox Chase Institute for Cancer Research after graduation. She was an active volunteer while raising her children, then in the 1980s she helped establish and operate Solutions Computer Center with her husband and two sons. Predeceased by husband Edward, she is survived by children David, Ann, and Eric, and six grandchildren.

**Jean Smith Murphy**, 94, of Rockland, Maine, on December 9, 2017. Her career began in NYC publishing houses and managing the Portland (Ore.) Symphony Office. Returning to the East, she worked in industrial advertising in Greenfield, Mass., and Hartford, Conn. She also became involved with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Moving to Maine, she worked part-time jobs and was an active member of the American Association of University Women. Predeceased by husband Larry, she is survived by son Marshall, daughter Pamela, and four grandchildren.

48 **Louise Gerlitz Ebner**, 93, of Hillsborough, N.J., on October 11, 2017. With a master's in education from Columbia Univ., she worked as an English teacher, guidance counselor, and assistant principal at Village School in Closter, N.J., for 30 years and then as an editor at the John Ankerberg Television Show in Chattanooga, Tenn. She is survived by husband Donald, daughter Donna, and three grandchildren.

**Janet C. Kohler**, 92, of Hughesville, Pa., on November 19, 2017. Before entering Middlebury, she worked for the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works TNT Plant and U.S. Rubber Co. After graduation, she worked as a chemist for Hollander Fur Co. and as a spectroscopist in the Instrumental Analysis Div. of Englhard Industries until retiring in 1983. She enjoyed hiking and was a noted historian. She is survived by two cousins.

**Laurence C. Thompson Jr.**, 91, of Portland, Ore., on October 30, 2017. After Middlebury, he studied two years in Vietnam then earned a PhD in linguistics from Yale Univ., eventually publishing *A Vietnamese Grammar.* He took a job teaching linguistics at the Univ. of Washington in Seattle for 10 years, before joining the faculty at the Univ. of Hawaii in 1966. He and wife Terry did field research over 20 summers in the Pacific Northwest, publishing dictionaries on various Salish languages among other publications. He is survived by wife Terry.

49 **Patricia Edwards Dickson**, 92, of New London, N.H., on December 9, 2017. She taught grade school English for several years and later, nursery school. She was an interior designer and for many years enjoyed buying and selling antiques with her husband. She is survived by husband Tracy, sons Tom and Bill, daughter Sarah, and three grandchildren.

**Joan Kenyon Schroeder**, 89, of Providence, R.I., on December 13, 2017. With a bachelor's in fine arts in illustration from Pratt Institute, her first job was as an art director at McGraw Hill Publishing Co. in New York. Her later jobs included working in real estate and becoming a senior systems analyst at Cigna Corp. Predeceased by husband Kenneth, she is survived by daughter Emily Ann, two granddaughters, and three great-granddaughters.

50 **Gloria Bou Kelly**, 89, of Boynton Beach, Fla., on October 19, 2017. She encouraged music, language, and travel in her children, but above all, encouraged each to fulfill their potential. She donated regularly to JDRF, Southern Poverty Law Center, and several animal welfare causes. Predeceased by husband Eugene, she is survived by children Deborah, Brian, Robert, Eugene, and Christopher, and 10 grandchildren.

**William J. McKinley Jr.**, 89, of Houston, Texas, on November 22, 2017. A Chi Psi at Middlebury, he spent a year at the Univ. of Michigan Law School before being called to active duty by the Marines, where he served four years. After a few years in commercial finance with CIT Corp., he joined Kinkaid School as the business manager and development director and helped grow the annual giving program and endowment fund for the school over the next 34 years. Predeceased by wife Kathleen (Devine), he is survived by children Jack, Sherry, Katie, Mary Ann, and Sheila, and five grandchildren.

51 **William N. Castor**, 88, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on November 20, 2017. With a master's in political science from Columbia, he taught at several universities, including in Puerto Rico, Ethiopia, and South Dakota. He then earned his PhD in international studies at the Univ. of Denver and joined the faculty at Lake Superior State Univ., where he taught until his retirement as full professor in 1994. In 1996, the board of trustees granted him emeritus status. He is survived by a nephew and his family.

52 **George P. Sperry**, 88, of Washington Township, Ohio, on December 3, 2017. A Chi Psi at Middlebury, he earned his medical degree from the Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1956. He served in the U.S. Public Health Service from 1957–1965, which took him to Alaska, where he worked at the Alaska Native Medical Center and was the recipient of the first medical license issued by the state of Alaska after it was granted statehood in 1959. In 1966 he became the associate medical director at what became Children's Medical Center of Dayton, Ohio. He left for private practice in 1972, forming Pediatric Associates of Kettering with a colleague. He also served as an associate professor at Wright State Univ. School of Medicine. In 1993 he was honored to receive the Wallace B. Taggart Award. Predeceased by wife Rachel (Byron), he is survived by sons Henry, Robert, and John, and five grandchildren.

53 **John S. Cummings**, 87, of Grand Prairie, Texas, on November 26, 2017. A member of Kappa Delta Rho, he earned a master's in geological sciences from Columbia Univ. For many years, he worked as an exploration geologist in various parts of the U.S. and Canada. In 1963 he undertook a long-term search for copper-zinc deposits in the Maine wildlands and is credited with the discovery in 1977 of the Bald Mountain Deposit, the only world-class metal deposit ever discovered in New England. In 1980 he was recognized by the Maine Senate and House of Representatives for the discovery. He is survived by wife Joan (Borthwick), children Christina and John, and one grandson. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Norman '57.

**John S. Hawkins**, 84, of North Caldwell, N.J., on June 13, 2017. After graduating from the 3-2 program with MIT with a bachelor's and master's in electrical engineering, he had a long career as a technical specialist at ITT Federal Labs. He and wife Diane (Prescott) had two sons, Keith and Craig.

54 **Edward T. Hager**, 84, of Thousand Oaks, Calif., on February 23, 2016. With a medical degree from Baylor Univ., he built a large practice in Santa Monica, Calif., focusing on geriatrics. In 1980, he left medicine to work on the Pacific Stock Exchange in San

The following is a list of deaths reported to us since the previous issue went to the printers. Full obituaries will appear in future issues of the magazine.

Carolyn Ohlander DePodwin '43 . . . December 25, 2017
Georgianna Hartdegen Booth '44 . . December 24, 2017
Miriam Edmunds LeBaron '46 . . . . . December 23, 2017
Doris Earnshaw O'Connor '46 . . . . . January 4, 2018
Jean Gunther '47 . . . . . February 9, 2018
Elizabeth Robinson Bharucha '48 . . . . February 12, 2018
Robert D. Fletcher '48 . . . . . January 5, 2018
Esther Henderson Frederick '48 . . . . December 30, 2017
John E. Krantz '48 . . . . . January 3, 2018
Patricia Cole Vinther '48 . . . . . December 28, 2017
Carola Shelley Williams '48 . . . . . January 10, 2018
Constantine M. Broutsas '49 . . . . . February 17, 2018
Noel C. Galen '50 . . . . . January 6, 2018
Charlotte Kastenbein Wendel '51 . . . . . January 31, 2018
William F. Stotz Jr. '52 . . . . . January 18, 2018
Jean Overhysser Arneberg '53 . . . . . February 6, 2018
Nancy Watson Blandin '53 . . . . . January 25, 2018
Janet Bradley Harris '53 . . . . . December 21, 2017
Ann Findley Wohl '53 . . . . . January 28, 2018
Clive M. Coutts '54 . . . . . January 30, 2018
James R. Ralph '54 . . . . . December 21, 2017
Bruce Flournoy Duncan '55 . . . . . December 20, 2017
Harvey A. Kaplan Jr. '55 . . . . . February 13, 2018
Samuel B. Boynton Jr. '57 . . . . . January 4, 2018
Jane M. Cameron '57 . . . . . January 29, 2018
Lawrence M. Casellini '57 . . . . . January 29, 2018
Rosario M. Rausa '57 . . . . . January 4, 2018
Roscoe K. Fawcett Jr. '58 . . . . . January 1, 2018
Harry T. Jones III '58 . . . . . February 17, 2018
Paul S. Koumrian '59 . . . . . January 24, 2018
Sally Newell Maider '59 . . . . . February 4, 2018
Ann Meeker Silver '60 . . . . . December 30, 2017
William S. Jackson '62 . . . . . December 31, 2017
Frederick R. Magnus '62 . . . . . January 22, 2018
William H. Strong '62 . . . . . December 14, 2017
Dexter B. Blake Jr. '65 . . . . . January 17, 2018
Nancy French Dodge '65 . . . . . January 20, 2018
Elaine Henrici McKay '65 . . . . . January 24, 2018
John R. Wyhof '65 . . . . . January 13, 2018
Michael "Ken" Donovan '68 . . . . . January 17, 2018
Amelia Burnham Kerrigan '69 . . . . . December 27, 2017
Howard N. Verman '71 . . . . . January 2, 2018
Stephen E. Townsend '75 . . . . . January 19, 2018
F. Galen Hoskin '87 . . . . . January 10, 2018
J. Brooks Fisher '96 . . . . . January 28, 2018

**GRADUATE SCHOOLS**

Robert G. Foster, MA English '58 . . . December 15, 2017
John L. Tyrer, MA English '59 . . . . . January 24, 2018
Meriel McAllister Carriker, MA French '44 . . . . . December 16, 2017
Joan Stockdale Belden, MA French '66 . . . . . January 10, 2018
Frances Cullinan Rosson, MA French '67 . . . . . February 7, 2018
James L. Ivey, MA French '68 . . . . . January 4, 2018
C. Richard Beam, MA German '57 . . . . January 26, 2018
Joann Sydow Berg, MA German '69 . . December 11, 2017
Peter R. Laizik, MA German '78 . . . . November 26, 2017
Yolanda Fargnoli Talamo, MA Spanish '49 . . . . . January 21, 2018
John P. Bianco, MA Spanish '61 . . . . December 27, 2017
Pamela G. Wrigley, MA Spanish '71 . . . . January 19, 2018
Christopher M. Prahl, MA Spanish '75 . . January 16, 2018
Frederick W. Thielke, MBA '10 . . . . . February 12, 2018
Christine A. Brummer, MPA '05 . . . . .February 11, 2018

Francisco. In 1986, he returned to Southern California and was active in many organizations, especially with Special Olympics and the Rotary. Predeceased by wife Andrea (Smith), he is survived by children Christa, Daniel, and Robert.

55 **John D. Buckingham Jr.**, 84, of Bristol, Maine, on December 14, 2017. A member of Sigma Epsilon, he served in the Navy as an aerologist in Guantánamo, Cuba. He began his corporate career as a product manager for General Foods in the Maxwell House coffee division. He also worked for Sterling Drug and Salada Tea and finished his career as a partner for McDougal Advertising Agency in Salem, Mass. He is survived by wife Lexie (Angell) '56, sons Jim and David, and one granddaughter.

**Robert B. Entwistle**, 85, of Naples, Maine, on November 17, 2017. A member of Phi Kappa Tau at Middlebury, he served in the Marine Corps in Japan after graduation. He made his career in educational publishing in Massachusetts, including 20 years at Addison-Wesley. Moving to Maine, he worked with Targeted Learning Corp., working into his 70s. He is survived by wife Marilyn (Woods), children Martha '83, Mike, Suzie '87, Bert, Amy, and Sarah, and 13 grandchildren.

**Natalie Chalfin Phillips**, 84, of New Bedford, Mass., on December 4, 2017. A Kappa Delta at Middlebury, she lived for three years in Brazil after graduating and taught English. Moving back to Boston, she attended Katherine Gibbs and worked for a yacht broker. She also worked as a teacher's aide and library aide before working full time for Essexbank in Peabody, Mass. She is survived by daughter Nancy and son Richard.

58 **John A. Knowles III**, 81, of Harleysville, Pa., on November 1, 2017. A member of Alpha Sigma Psi, he served two years in the Army Chemical Corps. With a PhD in analytical chemistry from Arizona State Univ., he had a long career with Wyeth Laboratories as a research chemist and as manager of the drug kinetics section. He is survived by wife Martha (Sommers), son Jared, and daughter Amanda.

59 **Pamela Payne Lewis**, 80, of Pittsburgh, Pa., on March 17, 2017. A Kappa Kappa Gamma at Middlebury, she earned her master's in English literature at Stanford Univ. She had a lifelong career in teaching, first as a junior high English teacher then as a writing instructor at Southern Conn. State College. Earning an MFA in opera performance and a doctor of arts in speech and voice at Carnegie Mellon (CMU), she taught voice at Duquesne and speech at CMU. She was certified in the Alexander Technique, and maintained a private practice through 2000. In 1987 she was hired by CMU to teach presentation skills and in 2000 was promoted to teaching professor. She is survived by husband Gordon, sons Peter and Kevin, and five grandchildren.

**Thomas R. Nutting**, 79, of Osceola, Wis., on April 10, 2017. A member of Alpha Tau Omega, he served in the Army before beginning a career in city management, working in towns in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. Moving to Alberta, Canada, he worked for the Ministry of Housing, the Government of Ontario, and with the municipal government in Thompson, Manitoba. Returning to the U.S., he established his own consulting firm, Independent Consulting Services. He and wife Deanna had three children, Joel, Tom, and Liz.

**Ruth Haynes Sargent**, 80, of Rotonda West, Fla., on October 11, 2017. Earning her degree from the Univ. of Miami, she had a long career in public relations, which included working for various companies in West Palm Beach, in development for the Alzheimer's Assoc., and with the Boca Grande community planning panel. She is survived by husband Brad '56, daughter Betsy, son Bill, one granddaughter, and three great-grandchildren.

61 **Douglas L. Jocelyn Jr.**, 78, formerly of Belvedere, Calif., on November 29, 2017. A Delta Kappa Epsilon, he served two years in the Army as a finance officer in Greenland. Earning an MBA from Columbia School of Business in 1965, he accepted a position with Dole Pineapple Co. in Honolulu. He spent 35 years with the company, retiring as VP of international sales. In 1970 he went to Thailand, where he headed the organization to start a Dole division in that country. Moving to Southern California, he became involved with Conejo Players Theater and earned his Screen Actors Guild card, landing small parts in six films. He is survived by wife JoAnna (Caldwell), sons John and Douglas, and four granddaughters. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Douglas '34, mother Dorothy (Gray) '35, aunt Janet Gray Willis '37, and uncle John Gray '39. Surviving Middlebury relatives

include sister Mary Jocelyn Stock '64, brother Robert '70, and nephew Nicholas Jocelyn '02.

62 **Wayne S. Bailey**, 77, of Atlanta, Ga., on November 30, 2017. A Kappa Delta Rho at Middlebury, he did graduate work at Florida State Univ. and taught science in a private school before working in banking, and real estate and property management. His last enterprise was helping to start Mountain National Bank. In retirement, he was a docent at Carlos Museum at Emory Univ. He is survived by wife Ellen (Agnor), daughter Ruth, and two grandchildren.

63 **Carol Nieter Ackerman**, 75, of Gloucester, Mass., on October 31, 2017. A member of Theta Chi Omega, she earned her master's in French from Middlebury in 1966. For nearly 30 years, she taught French and Spanish to students in public schools in Massachusetts and also taught at Shore Country Day School in Beverly, Mass. She was a lifetime lover of choral music and sang with several choral groups. She is survived by husband Jerry, daughters Laurel and Suzanne, son Steven, and four grandchildren.

66 **Joyce Smith Mills**, 72, of Woburn, Mass., on November 19, 2017. After a career in human resources at Harvard Univ., she began a career in financial planning, earning a degree from Boston Univ. and passing the CFP exam. She is survived by daughters Lisa and Shirley, and two grandchildren.

**Richard P. Mills**, 72, of Clifton Park, N.Y., on November 1, 2017. A Phi Kappa Tau at Middlebury, he earned a master's in history from Columbia Univ. and taught at the Dalton School in NYC. In 1971 he joined with a group of teachers to found Elizabeth Seeger School. With an MBA from Columbia, he went to work for the New Jersey Education Dept. in 1975 and in 1984, became the education aide to Gov. Thomas Kean. He was chosen as the commissioner of education for Vermont in 1988, where he served until 1995 when he became the commissioner of education for New York State. He retired in 2009. He is survived by wife Judy Sheldon Mills '65.

67 **Lane Mabbett**, 72, of Phippsburg, Maine, on October 26, 2017. He began his career in the lab at Dewey & Almy in Cambridge, Mass., before becoming a buyer for W. R. Grace. He then owned and operated Old World Sales in Natick, Mass., as well as Metro West Realty and Old World Flag. Predeceased by son Ben, he is survived by wife Mary Ann (Martin), son Lane, and two grandchildren.

**Carol Conklin Wheelock**, 71, of Waitsfield, Vt., on October 19, 2017. A Kappa Kappa Gamma at Middlebury, she earned her MEd from UVM in 1971 and her library/media certification in 1989. She taught second grade in Williston and Shelburne, Vt., before joining the staff at Fayston Elementary School as the librarian and kindergarten teacher. The school named the library in her honor. She earned a certificate in advanced feng shui studies from Feng Shui Designs and in 1998, began her business, Feng Shui Vermont. She is survived by children Andrea, Tyler, and Emily, and two grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Richard '41, mother June (Perry) '42, uncle Clifford Conklin '36, and aunt Martha Conklin Kays '45. Surviving Middlebury relatives include aunt Jennie-Belle Perry Barr '38.

68 **Jean Dithmar Myer**, 71, of Redding, Conn., on December 19, 2017. A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she was hired after graduating by IBM, where she had a 24-year sales and marketing career. She then worked for Chipcom Corp., a maker of LAN networking products, and retired in 2000. In the 1980s, she joined a sailing crew in the Boston area and sailed all over the world, including crossing the Atlantic eight times and the Pacific twice. She is survived by sister Jill and her family.

69 **Gilbert L. Kujovich**, 71, of East Barre, Vt., on December 14, 2017. A veteran of the Army, he graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1975. He clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Potter Stewart and Byron White, and also worked as a special assistant to the general counsel in the Dept. of Defense; chief counsel to the White House Intelligence Oversight Board; and assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education. He joined the faculty at Vermont Law School in 1981 and taught for almost 35 years, before retiring as professor emeritus in 2014. He published numerous articles on affirmative action, desegregation, and diversity, and was a leading advocate for civil unions. He is survived by wife Joni Chenoweth. Middlebury relatives include sister Jody Kujovich '77.

72 **Andrew A. Merdek**, 67, of Atlanta, Ga., on November 18, 2017. In Portland, Maine, he worked as a reporter and editor for the *Portland Press* before earning a law degree from the Univ. of Virginia. He joined the law firm of Dow, Lohnes and Albertson, where he became a partner and was the firm's principal media lawyer. After 10 years, he went to work for Cox Enterprises as VP and general manager of the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution.* He eventually retired as Cox Enterprise's VP and general counsel. He is survived by wife Jeanne (Mullen), sons David and Jonathan, and one granddaughter.

**John Thomas "JT" Moore**, 67, of Pomfret, Conn., on December 3, 2017. After graduation, he worked as a flight attendant for Pan American. Earning an MBA from Boston Univ., he started his career in an operations management track for Filene's Dept. Store. He then joined the staff at Brandeis Univ., where he worked for 20 years as the director of administrative coordination and planning, before working nine years as a senior project administrator at Management Sciences for Health. In his mid-50s, he began a modest business as an antiques dealer. He is survived by husband Robert Paladino.

73 **Kenneth G. Loftus**, 66, of Weston, Mass., on September 18, 2017. With a BA in English from Worcester State College, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1982 and studied philosophy at Loyola Univ. in Chicago. He earned his Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and was ordained in 1991. Among other positions, he served St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Chestnut Hill, Mass. He is survived by six brothers and three sisters and their families.

77 **Michael N. Costin**, 63, of Portland, Maine, on November 4, 2017. After graduating, he served for many years as the zoning administrator for the town of Ferrisburg, Vt. Moving to Portland, he invested in and managed real estate properties. He is survived by wife Marybeth (Browne) and son Francis.

83 **Kelly S. Swales**, 56, of Aspen, Colo., on October 13, 2017. She loved horseback riding and ski racing, competing on teams at Middlebury and the Univ. of Colorado. Predeceased by husband Ken Parks, she is survived by parents Don and Suzie, sister Kim, brother Kevin, and longtime companion Doug Lundgren.

02 **Tyler M. Beebe**, 37, of Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 15, 2017. He worked for several different financial institutions in banking and sales, and also worked in real estate. His love of music defined him and he played piano, cello, and saxophone, and immersed himself in professional voice lessons. He is survived by parents Roy '68 and Arlene, and sisters Jenna, Brittany '99, and Lindsay.

**FACULTY**

**Lynne Rudder Baker**, 73, of Amherst, Mass., on December 24, 2017. She earned her bachelor's in mathematics and her doctorate in philosophy from Vanderbilt Univ. and went on to teach at what was then Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va. After studying with philosopher Adolf Grunbaum at the Univ. of Pittsburgh on a postdoctoral fellowship, she joined the Middlebury faculty in 1976. She taught at the College 13 years before joining the faculty at UMass Amherst, where she taught until retiring in 2013 as a distinguished professor of philosophy. Her interests included metaphysics and philosophical theology, and she was the author of numerous books and essays. Her honors included fellowships from the National Humanities

# ClassActs

Center and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In 2005, she was awarded the Chancellor's Medal at UMass and in December 2017, the American Philosophical Assoc. announced she had been chosen to deliver the Romanell Lecture at the organization's 2019 eastern division meeting in NYC. She is survived by husband Tom.

### STAFF

**Louis L. Lee**, 78, of Orwell, Vt., on December 16, 2017. He joined Middlebury in April 1997 as a seasonal groundsworker and in January 1998 transferred into the role of custodian, which he retired from in 2009. An avid apple tree pruner, he worked 32 years in the apple industry in Shoreham, Vt. He also loved tending his flower and vegetable gardens. He was a Cub Scout leader, Little League coach, and volunteer firefighter. He is survived by wife Loretta (Doane), children Lynne, Kathleen, and Louis, and six grandchildren.

**Pamela J. Sands**, 54, of Middlebury, Vt., on February 13, 2018. She was hired by the College in December 1983 as a temporary postal clerk. In 1988 she was promoted to full-time postal clerk and worked in that role in the mail center for 30 years. Predeceased by son Christopher in 1982, she is survived by sisters Patty Murray and Johanna Freihofer and their families, as well as significant other Michael Ryan.

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

**47** **Francois Boutin**, 99, MA French, of Odessa, Texas, on November 1, 2017. During WWII, he served with the Naval Air Corps and flew combat missions totaling 1,400 hours as a patrol bomber copilot, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. He taught French for several years then worked 35 years as the manager of Midland Specialty Co.

**Barbara R. Holden**, 96, MA French, of Peabody, Mass., on November 4, 2017. She taught advanced classes in French at Maiden (N.C.) High School from 1946–67 then became the head of foreign languages at Winchester (Mass.) High School until her retirement in 1982.

**55** **Catharine Nevin Chu**, 87, MA French, of Jamesville, N.Y., on November 29, 2017. She taught in the Trumansburg, N.Y., schools then worked as a proofreader at *Syracuse New Times* and Dix Typesetting.

**56** **Marjorie Lawrence Kellogg**, 91, MA French, of Houghton, N.Y., on November 13, 2017. She taught French and Latin at Mooers (N.Y.) High School and Haverling High School (Bath, N.Y.) and taught French at Houghton College.

**65** **Alberto G. Guidi**, 76, MA Spanish, of Ryer Island, Calif., on November 23, 2017. He taught for many years at the Rio Vista (Calif.) High School.

**Mary Seiler-Nowatka**, 81, MA German, of North Chili, N.Y., on November 6, 2017. She taught German in the Greece (N.Y.) school system and taught German and English as a second language at R. L. Thomas High School in Webster, N.Y.

**69** **John D. Cole**, 83, MA English, of Portland, Maine, on October 27, 2017. After four years in the Navy, he taught English for several years before opening his own custom-carved sign business. An accomplished painter, his reproductions of stolen works from the Isabella Gardner Museum hang in the museum.

**71** **Peter G. Schmeelk**, 73, MA Spanish, of Arlington, Va., on June 16, 2016. He worked 48 years for the government in various capacities, which included both international and domestic tours with the Army, and as a State Dept. foreign service officer. He also did six years of contractor employment.

**72** **Ardis L. Nelson**, 75, MA Spanish, of Johnson City, Tenn., on November 8, 2017. She taught for 13 years at Florida State Univ. before accepting a position as chairperson of the Dept. of Foreign Languages at East Tennessee State Univ. (ETSU). She was named "Notable Woman of ETSU" in 2010 and earned a faculty distinguished service award from the ETSU College of Arts and Sciences in 2002.

**Rosaria Messina Walsh**, 91, MA French, of Portland, Maine, on November 26, 2017. With the ability to speak Italian, French, German, and Spanish fluently, she taught numerous classes both at parochial and public schools throughout southern Maine.

**75** **Melinda Siegel Frisch**, 65, MA Spanish, of Clarksville, Md., on July 4, 2017. She was an IAYT Certified Yoga Therapist and taught yoga at Body Balance and the Yoga Center of Columbia. She was a former Spanish instructor at Loyola College in Baltimore.

**76** **Marlene Palladino Ross**, 74, MA French, of Springfield, Ohio, on November 4, 2017. She was a foreign language teacher for over 40 years at Wilmington (Mass.) High School and also spent time overseas in China teaching English to children.

**77** **Cynthia Stratton Wilson**, 79, MA French, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 12, 2017. She was a teacher in the lower school at Cincinnati Country Day School until retiring in 1993.

# Classifieds


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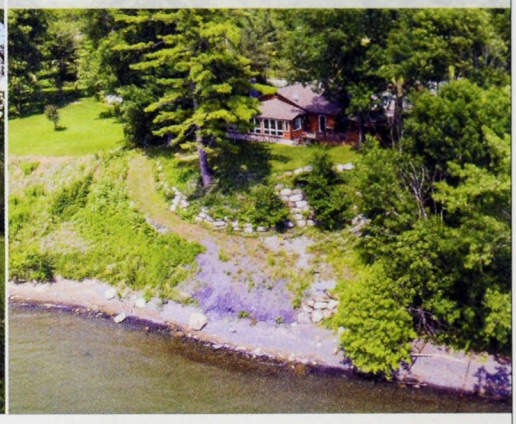

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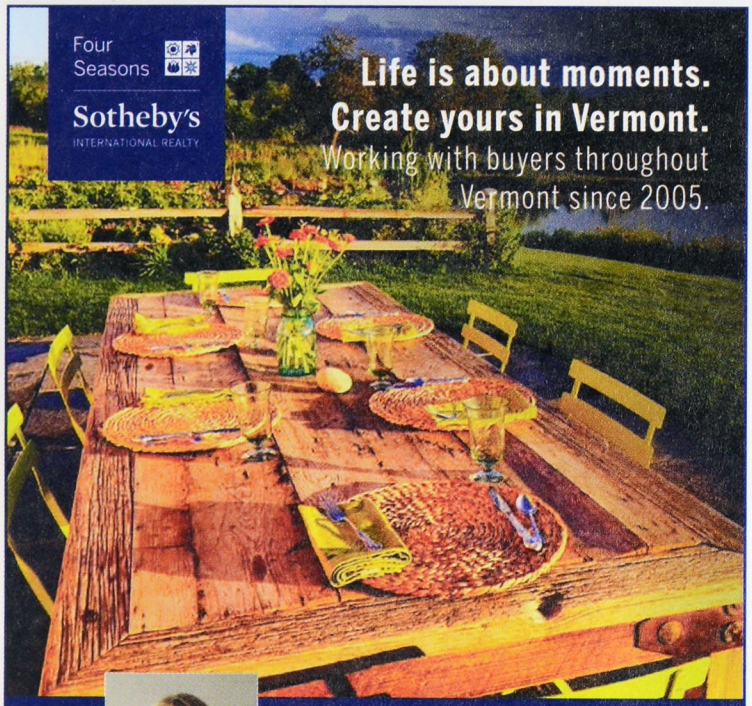

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By Kathleen Doyle, Visiting Associate in Science Instruction

# Swamp Things

Politicians of all stripes make calls to "drain the swamp" as a euphemism for ridding government of special interests, as if swamps contain all that is dark, evil, and selfish, instead of being the life-giving places that they are. Because words matter and so do the actions they inspire, I ponder how we might restore swamps to their rightful place on the landscape. How might we celebrate the swamp and embrace a perspective that considers broad timescales, recognizes interconnectedness, and appreciates the diversity and complexity that enrich our lives?

Swamps have a lot to teach us about broader perspectives. Before heading into Cornwall Swamp in Vermont's Champlain Valley, my students and I don hip waders. Solid ground gives way to uneven terrain, and we encounter with each step the complexity and variation in vegetation, soils, and water depth. One moment, I am standing on a dry mossy hummock where northern white cedar, red maple, and black ash trees are rooted with deciduous holly shrubs and verdant cinnamon fern. A step later, I am shin-deep in water and sink into deep, black muck.

As we squeeze the muck between our fingers, we shift our perspective of time. The deep, dark, waterlogged soil that extends meters deeper than we can probe has formed over millennia from the remains of plants. We are transported back over 10,000 years to when glacial Lake Vermont receded, and organic deposits started accumulating in the basin.

Students get sucked in; they let down their guards. They laugh and help pull each other out of the muck and appreciate each other in new ways. We all experience the quiet, the beauty, and the life-giving nature of the swamp, home to Canada warblers and moose, and a source of clean water downstream.

We appreciate the legacy and hard work that have maintained thousands of acres of wetlands that buffer Otter Creek. The Nature Conservancy cites the Otter Creek Swamps as the largest and most biologically diverse swamp complex in New England. The state of Vermont had the foresight to begin formally conserving Cornwall Swamp in 1965, and soon after it was designated a National Natural Landmark. This was the era when bipartisan efforts established the Environmental Protection Agency and expanded the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to become the Clean Water Act. Today, a consortium of farmers, local governments, landowners, and nonprofits continue the work to restore and conserve the Otter Creek Swamps.

The students and I experience the importance of the swamps to those downstream by reflecting on a recent and dramatic example. When Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont in August 2011, the Otter Creek Swamps absorbed floodwaters and released them slowly over a period of weeks, reducing the rate of water rushing through the town of Middlebury. As much as $1.8 million was saved in avoided property damage in Middlebury alone during that one storm, according to a study conducted by the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics. Typically, the peak flow rate of floodwater increases downstream as the size of the watershed increases; however, during the intense storm, the rate of flow of Otter Creek was lower in Middlebury than it was upstream in Rutland, a city not buffered by swamps.

Many students remark that they feel like they are in another world in the swamp. Perhaps visiting the swamp helps them understand interconnectedness, the complexity of space and time and context in a new way. One can understand how events in the past and actions in the future make a difference in our lives.

Instead of suggesting we degrade swamps, we can think over broader timescales and recognize how actions today shape the future and help us weather storms to come.

So go borrow a pair of hip waders and some binoculars and head into the muck with a neighbor—and appreciate how this diversity enriches our lives.



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